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Niles assisted living community leader earns national recognition

COMMUNITY REPORT

NILES — Brentwood at Niles has announced that Executive Director Lynda Sallee has been honored as a runner-up for the prestigious "Ken Hook" Executive Director of the Year award at Priority Life Care's 2025 Executive Director's Symposium in Jupiter, Florida.

In addition, and since the award, Lynda has been promoted to Regional Director of Operations.

Sallee has distinguished herself as a highly respected leader at Brentwood at Niles.

With a strong background in nursing, Lynda combines operational excellence with an unwavering focus on resident care quality. Her leadership style is characterized by:

• A strategic vision that drives impactful results

• A collaborative approach that fosters open communication

• A keen ability to navigate complex challenges with integrity

• A deep commitment to enhancing the lives of residents and staff

"Lynda's expertise in senior living, coupled with her emphasis on both operational efficiency and compassionate care, has made her an invaluable asset to our community," said Amanda

Ciak, Vice President of Regional Operations. "Her recognition is a testament to the positive impact she has on our residents and team members every day."

Lynda's dedication to excellence and her ability to inspire her team have significant contributed to the success and reputation of Brentwood at Niles. Her recognition at the national level reflects the high standards of care and leadership that Priority Life Care values across its communities.

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From left: Ken Hook, Sevy Petras, Lynda Sallee, Amanda Ciak, Kylie Hintz, Bobby Petras, Adam Mcgraw.

Pokagon Band establishes commercial gaming, hospitality company

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan and Indiana has announced the establishment of Four Winds Ventures, LLC, which will pursue opportunities in the development, management, and operation of businesses in commercial gaming, hospitality and related sectors.

The company is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the Pokagon Band Tribal Council. Pokagon Band Citizens and non-citizens, who meet the eligibility requirements, may be appointed to the Company's Board.

"The Pokagon Band has had tremendous success operating our Four Winds Casino Resorts at four locations in Michigan and Indiana," said Pokagon Band Tribal Council Chairman Matthew Wesaw. "This success has not only generated revenue to support our Tribal Nation which helps us provide essential government services to our citizens, but it has created tremendous economic and employment opportunities for surrounding communities and the region. We look forward to growing Four Winds Ventures as we continue to diversify our business holdings, which in addition to gaming and hospitality include architecture, construction, engineering, commercial real estate, and cannabis."

"We are extremely pleased to leverage our expertise and success in gaming and hospitality for close to 20 years," added Mary Smith, Chair of the Four Winds Ventures Board and Chief Operating Officer of Four Winds Casinos. "Within that timeframe we have developed and expanded four casino resorts, established Four Winds Casinos as the premier gaming destinations in the Midwest, and been recognized among the top ranked casino resorts outside of Las Vegas. We look forward to introducing Four Winds Ventures and partnering with a variety of organizations to advance their business objectives."

To date, the Pokagon Band Tribal Council has appointed five distinguished executives to the Four Winds Ventures Board. These new directors have decades of experience in the gaming and hospitality industry and a wealth of relevant expertise. The directors are Mary Smith, Chief Operating Officer of Four Winds Casinos; Raquel Buari, Executive Vice President of Administration for Four Winds Casinos; Scott Brewer, Senior Vice President of Community Affairs/Government Relations/Security for Four Winds Casinos; Brittany Frenchko, Vice President of Database & Analytics for Four Winds Casinos; and Ronald Sorce, Director of Sales & Catering for Four Winds Casinos.

The Pokagon Band Tribal Council is seeking letters of intent for individuals who are interested in being appointed to the two remaining open seats on the Four Winds Ventures Board. Candidates should have relevant experience in the areas of private sector management, business administration, accounting/banking or law. Interested persons are encouraged to click on the following link for more information on eligibility and how to apply.

https://www.pokagon-band-nsn.gov/fwv-open-positions/.

NILES TOWNSHIP TALKS TOWNSHIP HALL, RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Niles Township Board members tackled a number of subjects at their meeting Monday, including the status of township hall repairs and recreational marijuana.

Board members are currently holding their board meetings at the Niles Senior Center and conducting township business at the former bank building next door to the center while the township hall on Bell Road undergoes repairs. Township Supervisor Marge Durm-Hiatt said it could take longer than expected for the township hall to be ready for occupation.

She reported that the contractor working on the hall has found asbestos throughout the main part of the building. She said board members held a special meeting last week and agreed with the contractor that it would be cheaper to tear down that part of the building and build it back up from the foundation.

She said board members realized that while it will cost an estimated $250,000 more than the original $2.458 million price tag, it is better to do it right. The work had been scheduled to be done this spring and is now expected to be done by the end of July.

The topic of recreational marijuana businesses was not on the agenda but brought up by resident Ray Hartline. Voters approved a ballot proposal in November that allows marijuana businesses in the township.

"Why are we doing this?" he asked. "It doesn't make sense given the harm it brings to kids and people. We should do things that will benefit and be helpful to youth and the community."

Hartline asked a number of questions including how much money the township will get from the businesses. Durm-Hiatt said municipalities get a percentage of the state revenue from the businesses. Last year, she noted that the city of Niles got just under $60,000 per dispensary. Whatever the township receives will go into the general fund.

Board members noted that they have little choice in the matter since voters approved allowing marijuana businesses in the township. Durm-Hiatt did say that such businesses will be allowed only along the South 11th

See TALKS, Page A8

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

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Stevensville woman sentenced for tampering with evidence in fatal shooting

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Monday's sentencings at the Niles courthouse included that of a Stevensville woman charged with tampering with evidence associated with the Nov. 2 homicide of an Eau Claire firefighter.

Elizabeth Deanne Harper, 43, of Stevensville, pleaded guilty to tampering with evidence and was sentenced to two years probation, 180 days in jail with credit for 84 days served, 100 hours community service and $678 in fines and costs.

Harper

She initially was charged with being an accessory after the fact related to the Nov. 2 shooting death of firefighter Chad Medlin after an altercation in downtown Eau Claire. That charge was dismissed as part of a plea agreement. Rigoberto Gomez is charged with open murder and five other felony charges in the homicide.

According to the police report, Harper picked up Gomez after the incident and took him to her mother's home near Coloma. She talked to sheriff's deputies Nov. 3 and then on Nov. 11 when she admitted taking guns she found in the yard and throwing them away on her way to work.

Monday, Harper expressed remorse for her actions, saying she was ashamed of her actions, had made a terrible mistake and had learned her lesson.

"I apologize to the court, the state, the prosecutor, the sheriff's department, my family and friends, the community I put in danger and the family of the victim," she said.

Berrien County Assistant Prosecutor Myrene Koch called Harper's actions in hiding two guns and ammunition a "dangerous situation" that not only interfered in the investigation but put the community at risk. Koch noted that Harper discarded the weapons and the

See SHOOTING, Page A8

OBITUARIES

Michael Jasper
David Moll,
Charles Holden, Jr.
Sharon A. Sims
Beverly "Becky" Armstrong
Jerry Curtis
Linda Lee Briney
Amber L. Morgan
Mary Lee Anderson
Marian Teter

A6

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"You know it's bad when your Ring camera gets stolen." A2

LMC Women's Athletics Turns 50 B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

Trump won because of the high cost of milk, eggs and butter. Now he's going to make it cost even more.

Blaming Biden for the plane crash even before the victims have been retrieved from the bottom of the Potomac River is heartless.

When Trump says "Diversity" may have caused the plane crash, does he mean women and people of color? Seems pretty clear cut that is exactly what he means. I thought he was the President of all people?

There are qualified people who were turned down for government positions because they didn't meet the diversity qualifications. I believe that is the argument Trump is making. If we are all equal then, gender, sexaul orientation and color doesn't matter. Either you can do the job or you can't. And, that's the way it needs to be.

Ok, folks. It's time to take down the holiday decorations.

Please don't leave your dogs running wild in the yard. Unless you want the postal carrier or Amazon guy to pepper spray it, keep it chained up.

Even if the tariffs are imposed, they won't last long. No one wants to see the stock market run by the oligarchy to plunge.

Go Philly, beat Taylor Swift.

You know it's bad when your Ring camera gets stolen.

"Hard on crime" means nothing when you pardon people who beat police officers. If I used bear spray on a cop, I'd be looking at 10 years in jail with no chance of being pardoned. It's just not right to have these blanket pardons. Five of these losers have already been arrested again.

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
80% Chance Light Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	30% Chance of Snow
32° 24°	30° 16°	30° 17°	27° 17°	26° 19°	29° 19°

SMC PRESIDENT ODENWALD RESIGNS

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College will be searching to fill the school's top administrative post following the resignation of President Dr. Joseph Odenwald.

Odenwald has notified the SMC Board of Trustees that he has accepted the presidency of Alma College in Alma, Mich., effective June 1, 2025. Odenwald will remain in his current position stewarding the college through Spring 2025 Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 10.

Board Chairman Tom Jerdon said, "Dr. Odenwald has had an exemplary time of service at SMC, first as Vice President of Student Services, and then more than five years as president. SMC has been blessed to have Dr. Odenwald, who has been an entrepreneurial and transformative leader. With regret, the Board accepts his resignation and wishes him and his family the best with all blessings in his next position."

Odenwald joined the college on Nov. 27, 2017, moving from his role as assistant dean for academic affairs at the Louisiana State University College of Engineering. The Board of Trustees appointed him SMC's eighth president effective Jan. 1, 2020. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history (with a minor in religion) from Louisiana College, a master's degree in higher education administration from Mississippi College, a doctorate in higher education administration from The University of Southern Mississippi and a master's degree with a concentration in strategic management from Michigan State University. He also completed the coursework for a certificate in fundraising management from the Fund Raising School at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University.

Dr. Odenwald said, "SMC is home to Laura, Joseph and me. It's the only college Joseph has known, from watching graduations to attending concerts to enjoying exciting game nights in 1st Source Bank Fieldhouse. You welcomed us from a faraway land, and we will always consider ourselves Roadrunners. This is a special place because of each of you. Any success for me from here forward will be due in part to what I have learned, and we have applied here."

Jerdon said, "The Board of Trustees will act accordingly to continue to advance the college and move forward with campus initiatives, projects and leadership to continue to provide high-quality and affordable post-secondary education for our students, as well as provide great facilities and a beautiful campus for both students and all team members."

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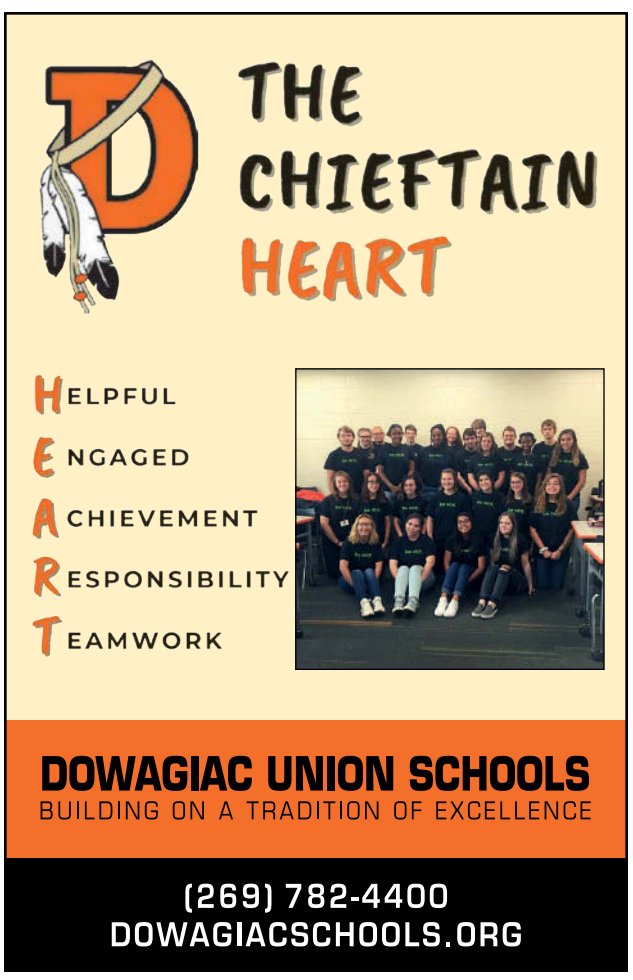

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Treasurer offers tips to avoid foreclosure

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

ST. JOSEPH — Berrien County Treasurer Shelly Weich is once again going out to local communities to meet with people needing help to stay in their homes and avoid foreclosure.

Weich, who just started her second term as county treasurer, is traveling to area communities around the county through March. Locations she's visiting include Benton Township, Chikaming Township, Niles Township and Watervliet Township as well as Benton Harbor City, Buchanan City and Niles City.

Dates and places of her visits are on the county treasurer's website, www.berriencounty.org/treasurer. People don't have to make an appointment to meet with her at any of the offsite locations or at her office in the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph. She is also available by phone at 269-7111 ext. 8569 to set up a payment plan.

In the south county, her remaining Niles Township visits are on Feb. 12 and March 5, both from 1-3 p.m. at 1835 S. 11th St., the former bank building where Niles Township temporarily has its offices. She will be at the Buchanan City Hall at 302 N. Red Bud Trail Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon and March 13 from 1-3 p.m. Her visits to the Niles City Hall at 333 N. Second St. are on Feb. 26 and March 19 from 1-3 p.m.

People stopping by her office hours around the county will find her prepared to help them set up a payment plan and accept money. She has a computer and printer to look up how much is owed, set up the payment plan, provide the paperwork and accept payments.

Weich is carrying on the payment plan tradition set by her predecessor Bret Witkowski in helping property owners facing foreclosure. While all counties in Michigan now offer payment plans to people with delinquent taxes, Witkowski started the practice here in Berrien County before most if not all other counties.

Weich chooses the first three months of the year as the time for her visits to outlying communities to keep as many properties off the foreclosure list prior to the annual March 31 deadline to redeem properties after three years of unpaid taxes. This year, March 31 is the last day to pay 2022 and prior year taxes.

"We don't want to take properties to auction," she said. "Fortunately the number of properties going to auction is going down due to the help we're giving."

"I am visiting various local municipalities in January, February, and March to help those having a financial hardship to pay their property taxes," she said. "For those municipalities that I have visited so far, the turnout has been more than I have seen the past few years."

"People are struggling, and if this provides an opportunity for them to stay in their home, I am willing to help," she added. "Anyone is welcome to stop by to discuss delinquent taxes, make a payment, or ask any other questions."

Weich noted that she and her staff work throughout the year to help homeowners stay in their homes. She said this year's foreclosure numbers are similar to the past few years.

"When the Petition for Foreclosure was filed in June 2024, there were 1,676 potential foreclosures compared to 1,616 in 2023 and 1,686 in 2022," she said. "At this point, there are approximately 800 properties that have been redeemed or have entered into a monthly payment plan."

As has been the case in past years, the hardest hit areas for potential tax foreclosure are the City of Benton Harbor, Benton Charter Township, City of Niles, and Niles Charter Township. "But there are also many other affected areas across the count," she said.

In one difference from past years, Weich said she's seeing a wider variety of people across different demographics seeking help. "I am seeing a range of people having difficulty paying their taxes," she said. "In the past, it was usually low income homeowners that were struggling."

"Now, I see many on fixed incomes who may only be receiving social security as well as with personal and family related health issues," she said. "The increase in grocery prices and utilities has homeowners strapped. Many are trying to maintain their own home along with a loved one's home as well. They may have lost a job, gotten sick or had a death in the family."

Weich checks as well to make sure people are aware of other assistance that's out there. For example, she will ask people about their income level to see if they are eligible for a poverty exemption. "Sometimes people don't know about other programs," she said. "We have them look at everything and help them the best we can."

She said another tool that's out there to help people having trouble paying property taxes is a property tax savings account offered by United Federal Credit Union. People can save throughout the year to make sure they have the money at the end of the year to pay their property taxes.

Payment plan agreements she reaches with taxpayers are usually for one year but can be revisited if it's needed. "Payment plans are a yearly agreement that we revisit if there's still a need so people will be able to stay in their properties," she said.

"Our goal is for them to pay off at least some of what they owe in a year," she added. "We also try to accommodate them, we don't want to strap them too much."

Foreclosure is a three year process. In the first year of delinquent taxes, unpaid taxes are turned over to the county treasurer for collection and interest and fees start to be added. Properties are forfeited to the county and a lien is recorded in the second year of unpaid taxes with more fees and interest added.

The second year also features notification of property owners, publication of the list of properties and personal visits to properties. Foreclosure comes in the third year when a judge signs the foreclosure order in February and the redemption period ends on March 31. Foreclosed properties are sold in an online auction in July of that year.

Lawton woman charged with embezzling $50,000 from adult family member

COMMUNITY REPORT

LANSING — Wednesday, Barbara Cavner, 66, of Lawton, was arraigned before Magistrate James Becker of the 7th District Court in Paw Paw for embezzling approximately $50,000 from her aunt, announced Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel.

Cavner is charged with one count of Embezzlement from a Vulnerable Adult-$20,000 or more but less than $50,000, a felony punishable by up to 10 years' incarceration and/or a fine of $15,000 or three times the value of the money or property involved, whichever is greater.

In March 2021, Cavner's aunt was admitted to an assisted care facility in Lawton, where she remained until August 2023 before transferring to another facility in the same town with Cavner acting as her aunt's attorney-in-fact, or durable power of attorney. Between March 2021 and October 2024, Cavner allegedly used large sums of her aunt's money for her own needs. It is alleged that Cavner withdrew

See CHARGED, Page xx

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The Underground Railroad and its Cass County legacy

COMMUNITY REPORT

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FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Brownsville School No. 1

CASS COUNTY — The area in and around Vandalia – specifically Calvin, Penn, and Porter Townships – was known as "Young's Prairie" in the 1820s through the 1860s.

It was in this area that many Quakers settled in the early 1830's and formed Birch Lake Meeting. They settled here to leave slave states and escape the hated practice of slavery. Some Quakers specifically settled here to become part of the Underground Railroad (UGRR), a network of safe shelters called 'stations. Those who operated these shelters, mostly homes, barns and other out-buildings, were known as 'stationmasters. And those who took fugitive slaves to the next station were called 'conductors.

Many of the Quaker families who settled in Young's Prairie moved here from Richmond, Ind., where Levi Coffin called "the president of the UGRR" maintained a very active station. Quakers Josiah Osborn and sons Jefferson and Ellison, Joel East, Stephen Bogue, and Ishmael Lee established UGRR stations in the early 1830's. Zachariah Shugart arrived soon after and became a stationmaster and conductor on the UGRR. African American Henry Shepard settled in Vandalia, and also became a stationmaster and conductor on the UGRR. They took slaves to the Nathan and Pamela Thomas station in Schoolcraft, and often to Battle Creek where Erastus and Sarah Hussy kept a well-known station. Isaac Bonine became a stationmaster in the late 1830's, as did William Jones, nephew of Stephen Bogue. James E. Bonine, son of Isaac, moved to Young's Prairie in 1843, married Sarah Bogue in 1844, and built their brick farmhouse in 1845. While there is no evidence that slaves were sheltered in the Bonine House, there is ample evidence they were sheltered in the Bonine Carriage House across the street built c. 1850.

A large group of Free Blacks started arriving in the mid 1840's, mostly from North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee, and many established farms, primarily in Calvin Township. There are many Free Blacks and slaves on the 1850 census for Calvin, Penn and Porter townships, and over one hundred Black-owned properties on the 1860 Cass County plat map. Thriving black churches were established -- Chain Lake Baptist, Mt. Zion Methodist and Bethel AME. Chain Lake Baptist established an Anti-Slavery Society in 1853. It is claimed that over fifteen hundred slaves were helped on their journey to Canada by Quakers, Free Blacks, and other abolitionists in Young's Prairie. James E. Bonine established what came to to be be called "Ramptown" when he purchased Section 33 in 1853, inviting Free Blacks and slaves to clear the land in exchange for the ability to build a cabin, grow their own food, earn their own money, send their children to school, and go to church. Ramptown, named for wild leeks in the area, grew to a community of about thirty cabins, housing over one hundred people by 1860.

Most slaves came to Young's Prairie from the border counties of Kentucky. In early 1847 two parties escaped and made their way to Young's Prairie on the Quaker Line of the UGRR. Many stayed to work on Quaker farms, residing in cabins on the properties. Kentucky planters were incensed that "their property" was being stolen from them and sent thirteen slave catchers to bring their slaves back to Kentucky. They had the right to do this under the federal Fugitive Slave Act of 1793.

Kentucky Slave Raid

On Aug. 20, raiders broke into smaller parties and captured nine slaves on the Osborn, East, Shugart, Shepard and Bogue farms. They all met at O'Dells Mill in Vandalia, where they were surrounded by Quakers, Free Blacks, other abolitionists, and townspeople who said the slave catchers were not going to take the slaves back to Kentucky. Violence was narrowly avoided. Since the slave catchers believed the law was on their side, they agreed to go to court in Cassopolis to let a judge settle the matter.

They made the five mile trip to Cassopolis on foot, on horseback and in wagons. By the time they arrived, there were hundreds gathered to witness the spectacle. The slave catchers were jailed and the slaves were put under guard in the local tavern for their safekeeping. The Cass County Circuit Court Commissioner was out of town so Ebenezer McIlvain, the Berrien County Commissioner, was brought in to hear the case. Mellvain was a secret abolitionist. He delayed the trial for three days allowing both sides to prepare their cases. The slave catchers posted bail. When the trial resumed, McIlvain allowed slaves to testify against their masters and the slave catchers, accusing them of assault. Bogue, Shepard and others accused slave catchers of breaking and entering, and destroying their property. The slave catchers had papers proving the slaves were the 'property' of planters but could not produce "certified" Kentucky statutes.

Based on this technicality, Mellvain found for the slaves and dismissed the case. The nine kidnapped slaves were taken to the home of Ishmael Lee, and along with over thirty others, escaped on the UGRR conducted by Zachariah Shugart, to Schoolcraft then to Battle Creek, where some stayed and the rest went on to Canada and freedom. It was one of the largest recorded escapes on the UGRR. The Kentucky slave catchers went home empty handed but sued the Osborns, Lee, Shugart, Bogue, William H. Jones, David T. Nicholson and Ebenezer Mellvain In District Court in Detroit in 1849. This case was settled and dismissed in 1851. Perry Sanford, freedom seeker, gave his eye witness account of the Kentucky Slave Raid to a newspaper in 1884.

A diverse community

The UGRR continued to operate in Cass County until 1860 with Black churches and Free Blacks playing a much larger role. More Free Blacks continued to settle in the area, primarily Calvin Township, so that by 1860 Cass County had one of the highest Black populations in Michigan, second only to Wayne Township. Many Free Black families arrived here with money, or earned money working for local Quakers. They bought property, established thriving farms, and became respected members of the community. As noted, more than one-hundred Black owned properties were recorded on the 1860 Cass County Plat map, a startling fact during the 1850 Enhanced Fugitive Slave Act. Booker T. Washington visited Calvin and Porter Townships in 1902, and recorded his thoughts on this group of people in "Two Generations Under Freedom." The "Calvin Township" Room in the Bonine House has much research on early Black pioneers. The Estella Lawson and Mary Anne Bonine Collections in the Bonine House UGRR Library (also ursec.org) also tell the story of these brave, industrious settlers.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SOCIETY OF CASS COUNTY

The Bonine House.

Over one hundred Black men from Calvin and Porter Townships volunteered to fight in the Civil War. Most joined the 102nd USCT (US Colored Troops) and fought bravely in several battles. Many are buried in Chain Lake, Mt. Zion and Bethel Cemeteries with marked graves. In the "Underground Railroad Room in the Bonine House, there is a display that discusses the role of Black soldiers in the Civil War, and the men of the 102nd.

In 1837 Michigan ordered neighborhood schools be built, and by 1850 one room schools were established in five districts in Cass County. On the 1850 census for Cass County, it notes children going to school, both Black and white. On the 1860 Calvin Township plat map, it shows schools throughout the township, most of them integrated. Integrated schools were also established in Porter, Penn, and Volinia Townships, a legacy of the Underground Railroad. Many Free Blacks had their own farms, and many lived and worked on farms in the area. They all sent their children to local schools. Black and white children going to school together set a standard for racial harmony that continues to this day.

A lasting legacy

The story of the Underground Railroad was recorded in Cass County history books, local historians' and academic accounts, but not many other places. The Black community did not talk about it, and the white community did not care. The local UGRR was not taught in schools, and the story almost disappeared from public scrutiny. During 2000-2010 a series of events rekindled interest in various aspects of the story. The Michigan Bar Association Milestone Marker placed at the Cassopolis courthouse, resurrected the story of the 1847 Kentucky Slave Raid, and inspired Ruth Andrews to create the "Sanctuary and Deliverance" mural in downtown Cassopolis. In 2002 Western Michigan University did an archeological study that proved "Ramptown" existed and was on James E. Bonine's property. Dr. Veta Tucker then connected the Bonine House to the UGRR. A community meeting took place in lace in 2009 to determine interest in saving the Bonine House; and from that meeting Underground Railroad Society County (URSCC) was formed, receiving its 50123 in June, 2010. of Cass

URSCC purchased the Bonine House and Carriage House in December of 2010, and the Bogue House was donated to URSCC in 2018 by Pleasant View Church of Christ. Brownsville School No. 1 in Calvin Township was purchased by URSCC in November, 2022. The Bonine House is now a community events and education center, and

See LEGACY, Page A7

Niles Daily Star

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Published Saturday except holidays when the postal service does not deliver mail: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day at 25 N. Second St., Niles, Michigan, by Leader Publications LLC. Periodicals paid at the Niles Post Office, 741 Broadway St. Postmaster: Send change of address to Circulation Manager, The Daily Star, **25 N. Second St., Niles, MI 49120**. Home Delivery by mail is local: $7.50/month, out of town: $10.50/month.

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COMICS & PUZZLES

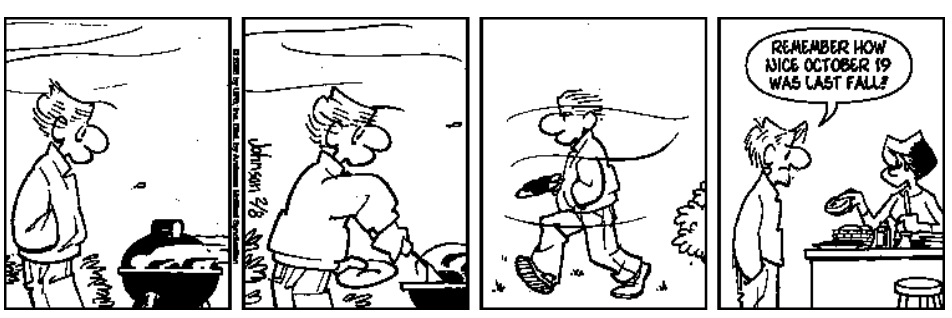
ADAM

WHAT'S WITH YOU?
I'M STUNNED. MOM AND DAD DATED OTHER PEOPLE BEFORE EACH OTHER.
DUH. DID YOU THINK THEY WERE BORN MARRIED?
YOU DID. DIDN'T YOU?
NOT EXACTLY, BUT KINDA MAYBE SORTA.

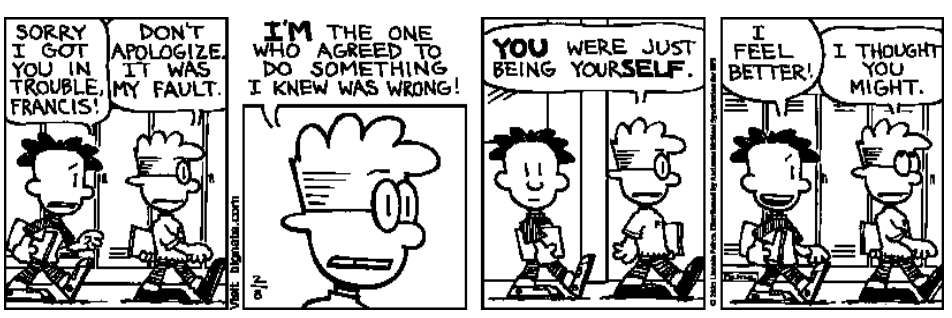
ALLEY OOP

ENOUGH LOLLYGAGGING. LET'S MEET THIS OLD WOMAN.
WHAT'S THE PASSWORD?
I DON'T KNOW THE PASSWORD. HOW WOULD IT?
THAT'S WHY IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO REMEMBER YOUR PASSWORD.
OH, YEAH? WHAT'S YOUR PASSWORD?
THAT'S RIGHT! "YOURPASSWORD." AND I NEVER TELL ANYONE WHAT IT IS!

ARLO & JANIS



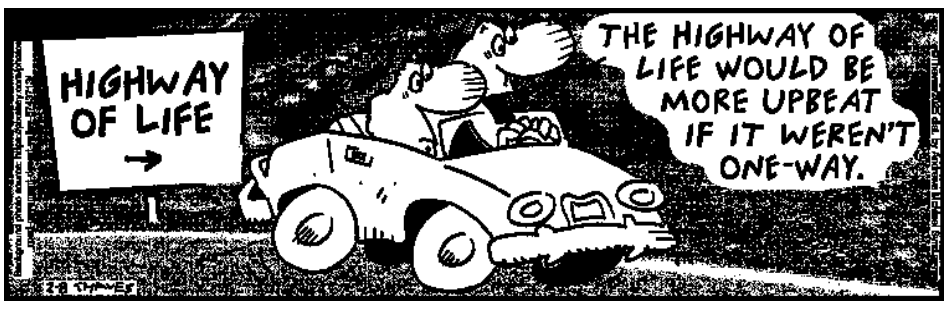
BIG NATE


SORRY I GOT YOU IN TROUBLE, FRANCIS!
DON'T APOLOGIZE. IT WAS MY FAULT.
I'M THE ONE WHO AGREED TO DO SOMETHING I KNEW WAS WRONG!
YOU WERE JUST BEING YOURSELF.
I FEEL BETTER!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT.

BORN LOSER

WE'RE BACK!
WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY IS WRONG WITH WILBERFORCE?
THE DOCTOR SAID HE HAS A RHINOVIRUS.
AND I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE ZOO IN MONTHS!

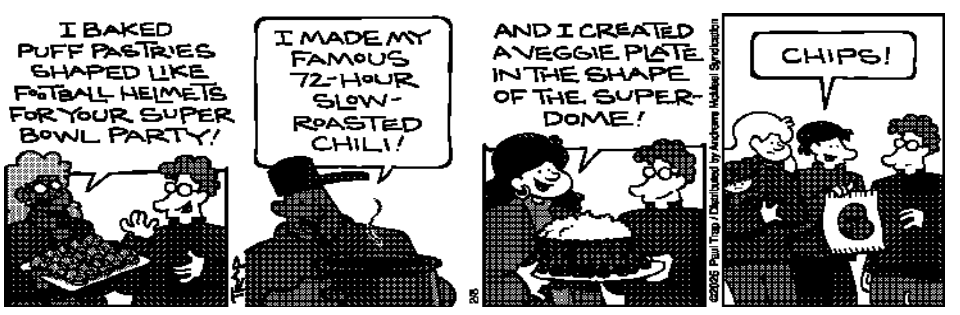
FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PROUD OF THE WAY I'VE BEEN ABLE TO CHANGE THE THING I CANNOT ACCEPT
DON'T YOU MEAN...
NO, WAIT. I THINK YOU GOT IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME
DARN RIGHT I DID

THATABABY


I BAKED PUFF PASTRIES SHAPED LIKE FOOTBALL HELMETS FOR YOUR SUPER BOWL PARTY!
I MADE MY FAMOUS 72-HOUR SLOW-ROASTED CHILI!
AND I CREATED A VEGGIE PLATE IN THE SHAPE OF THE SUPER-DOME!
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SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

								8
		2		7	8	6		
			9	4		5	2	
				5			7	1
	4	5		2		3	9	
7	3			9				
	9	4		3	2			
		7	6	1		9		
6								

MODERATELY CONFUSED

WHY ARE YOU TALKING TO ME WITH THE SAME VOICE YOU DO FOR OUR DOG?
STAHLER
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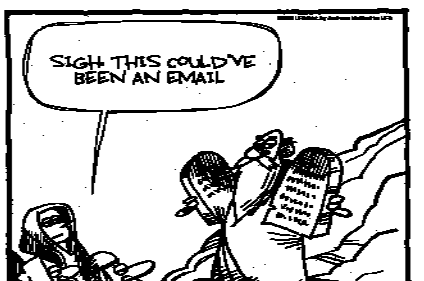
REALITY CHECK

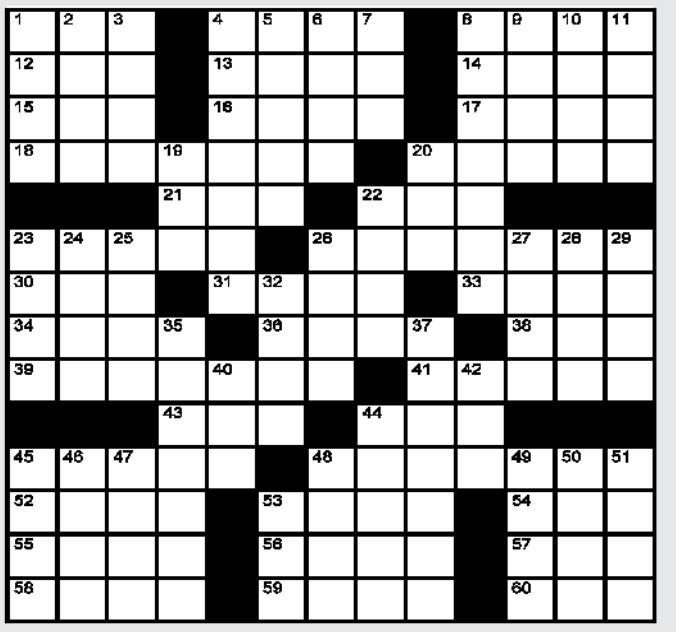


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

ACROSS
1 Turf for lawns
4 Bills and coins
8 Scourge
12 Kimono sash
13 Sandwich cookie brand
14 Eye part
15 Keanu Reeves in "The Matrix"
16 Muse count
17 Penny
18 Spun around
20 Pierces with horns
21 — Alamos, New Mexico
22 Abbr. on business cards
23 Fast car
26 Alike
30 "— Town"
31 Sew loosely
33 Stephen King novel
34 Streetcar
36 Den
38 Rug surface
39 Cupboard
41 Chicago airport
43 — cit.
44 Feather scarf
45 Zippy
48 Vatican's — Chapel
52 Settled on a branch
53 After-dinner candy
54 Daddy
55 Hindu princess
56 Press
57 Take legal action
58 Wall pier
59 "The — Hunter"
60 United

DOWN
1 Hymn
2 Be compliant
3 Fashion name
4 Twist out of shape
5 Star sign
6 Deliver
7 Farm implement
8 Pastoral
9 Say confidently
10 Island goose
11 Dines
19 Cakes and —
20 Jewel
22 Polynesian idol
23 Mil. group on campus
24 Air
25 Grouch
26 "Begone!"
27 Moon goddess
28 Slightly open
29 Lariat
32 Actor — Guinness
35 Group of armed civilians
37 Farm bird
40 Show assent
42 Chapeau
44 Spree
45 — avis
46 Actor — Alda
47 Liquid measure
48 Father
49 — facto
50 Part of speech
51 Fencing item
53 Mire



2-8

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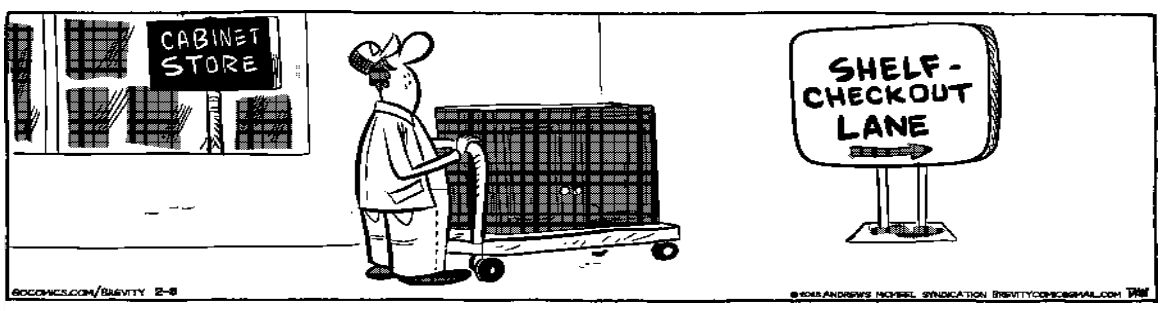
BREVITY



HEART OF THE CITY

YOU OKAY, HEART? YOU LOOK LIKE THIS IS YOUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.
WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU THAT HEART AND I SWITCHED BODIES, AND I'M ACTUALLY HER MOM, ADDY?
...
YEAH, TOTALLY! IT'S LIKE THE 1972 BOOK "FREAKY FRIDAY."
I HOPE YOU TURN BACK SOON!
THANKS, CHARLOTTE.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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DEATH NOTICES

Michael Jasper, 60, of Niles, passed away, Saturday, February 01, 2025. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

David Moll, 68, of Three Oaks, passed away Monday, February 03, 2025. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Charles Holden, Jr. Hoven Funeral Home, Buchanan, MI.

Sharon A. Sims, 67, of Cassopolis, died Tuesday, February 4, 2025. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis.

OBITUARIES

Beverly "Becky" Armstrong

December 11, 1952 - February 2, 2025

Beverly "Becky" Armstrong, age 72, of Dowagiac, passed away Sunday, February 2, 2025, at her home.

She was born on December 11, 1952, in Denver, CO, the daughter of Day and Bessie (Endres) Armstong. Becky worked as a chemist at the Niles Wastewater Treatment facility for 11 years, until her retirement in 2009.

Surviving are her spouse - Joy Oisten; two brothers - Day Armstong and Kevin (Irene) Armstrong; nieces and nephews - Shane, Peter, Kevin Jr, and Alexander; and numerous grand nieces and nephews, cousins and extended family and many friends.

Preceding her in death were her parents and niece - Danielle.

A service to celebrate Becky's life will be held in Spring 2025 and will be announced at a later date. Inurnment will be in Riverside Cemetery, Dowagiac. Arrangements were entrusted to Clark Chapel - Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac. Please visit Becky's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave a condolence to her family at www.clarkch.com.

Jerry Curtis

August 27, 1951 - January 14, 2025

Jerry Lee Curtis, 73, of Dowagiac, passed away, early Tuesday morning, January 14, 2025, at Ascension Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, MI. Honoring Jerry's wishes, cremation has taken place and a memorial dinner will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2025 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Moose Lodge, 54867 M-51, Dowagiac, MI. Family and friends are welcome. Arrangements were entrusted to Clark Chapel and Cremation Services - Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice. Please visit Jerry's personalized webpage to view a complete obituary, share a memory or leave a condolence to his family at www.clarkch.com.

Linda Lee Briney

December 8, 1955 - January 22, 2025

Linda Lee Briney, age 69 years of Niles, Michigan; wife, mother, and grandmother died peacefully at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 with her husband at her bedside at their home following an extended illness. Her family is grateful for the kind and compassionate care provided by the staff of Caring Circle Hospice.

She was born on December 8, 1955 in Benton Harbor, Michigan to Oaka and Margaret (Weatherington) Malloy, and attended Eau Claire (Michigan) Public Schools. She continued her education with some classes at the University of Notre Dame. She was employed for many years by an eavestrough contractor, scheduling appointments and keeping the books, but was actively involved in sales, both telephone calls and walking neighborhoods, knocking on doors for face-to-face contacts. She became quite proficient at identifying sizes, shapes, and materials of eavestroughs and downspouts, and could help a homeowner understand their needs. She later served as a private duty home healthcare aide.

On June 30, 2007 in her sister-in-law's backyard, she married Master Sergeant Leslie Grant Briney, U.S. Air Force, Retired with whom she celebrated the seventeenth anniversary of their wedding.

Surviving family includes her husband, Leslie "Corky" Briney and her children, Allan Linsley of Buchanan, Michigan, Gary Allan Linsley of Niles, Shane Linsley of Niles, and Brittany Linsley of South Bend, Indiana; eleven grandchildren; Linda's sister, Margaret Glowanky of Benton Harbor; Leslie's children, Roberta Lynn Bartlett, Denise Renée Elder, and Leslie Clifford Briney; and Leslie's sister, Janice Corredo.

The family and friends of Linda Briney will gather at her graveside in Crystal Springs Cemetery in Benton Harbor to share memories and honor her life with a Committal Service. Linda completed her prearrangements at the Halbritter-Wickens Funeral Home, 615 East Main Street in Niles, who is now fulfilling her requests. Online memories and condolences may be left at: www.halbritterwickens.com

Linda loved life, and enjoyed meeting strangers who might need help maintaining their house, and who became clients and friends. She was always ready to visit with anyone, and more recently appreciated and enjoyed everyone who came to visit her. Above all, she loved her family, especially Leslie.

Amber L. Morgan

November 21, 1972 - February 3, 2025

Amber Leigh Morgan, 52, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Monday, February 3, 2025, in the presence and comfort of those who loved her.

Her life began November 21, 1972, in Niles, Michigan, the eldest of four children born to Charles and Pamela Morgan.

Amber was a caring and compassionate sister who looked out for her siblings, as well as anyone who had a chance to grace her orbit. She loved all things beautiful and enjoyed to laugh with her friends. She was a member of the Girl Scouts from a young age. She was active in both swimming and basketball, receiving a number of gold medals for participating in the Special Olympics. Amber was popular amongst her peers in school and a notable graduate of Blossomland Learning Center. She was good at making friends with anyone, whether animal or person, and offered a loyal spirit of kindness to all. She was employed for the YMCA, providing her special flare for beauty and cleanliness before retiring.

Amber will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her mother, Pamela Morgan of Niles; siblings, Mike (Cherie) Morgan of Niles, Amanda Morgan of Lansing, Sean (Kelly) Morgan of Elkhart, Indiana; her very best friend, Shelly Abair of Niles; and a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, February 15, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. until time of a memorial service at 2:00 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Amber be made to Blossomland Learning Center, 711 St. Joseph Avenue, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

See OBITUARIES, Page A7

Area residents receive probation

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — Three area residents were sentenced to probation Friday, Jan. 31 in Cass County Circuit Court, with one having the chance to have his conviction reduced from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Timothy Harmon Ferguson, 53, of South Bend, pleaded guilty to felony third offense drunk driving on a delayed sentence. The charge will be reduced to a misdemeanor second offense drunk driving if he successfully completes an 11 month probation. He will be back in court in December for a final disposition of the case.

Ferguson

Ferguson was given credit for two days in jail already served and ordered to pay $2,268 in fines, costs and restitution.

The incident occurred Sept. 28, 2024 in Ontwa Township near Edwardsburg. Police stopped him after they received a call about someone driving erratically. His blood alcohol level was found to be .16 which is twice the legal limit.

County Prosecutor Victor Fitz noted that Ferguson spent seven years in the military, has a post graduate degree and has a good job. "He is a man with a conscience and cares about his family and others, but he needs to understand that if he continues to drink and drive, he may kill or injured someone, he said.

Defense attorney Kevin Banyon said that Ferguson knows he has an alcohol problem and has stopped drinking for periods of time in the past. "He's thankful he didn't hurt anybody," Banyon said. "This is a day of optimism for him, he's excited about his sobriety and about the rest of his life where he can be a positive influence in society."

Ferguson said he now knows he's an alcoholic. "I'm not going to take this opportunity for granted," he said. "I'm sober and a lot of good things are happening in life. I'm reconnecting with people who genuinely care for me ... I'm very thankful for the whole experience. It probably would have been a lot worse for my life if this didn't happen."

"I think this is an appropriate disposition," Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman said. "You have a lot to lose if you don't stop drinking and driving."

Also Friday, Kayden Isaiah Dungey, 17, of Dowagiac, pleaded guilty to attempted interference of electronic communications and was sentenced to 12 months probation, credit for 84 days served and $1,835 in fines and costs.

Dungey

The incident occurred Sept. 29, 2024 in Cassopolis when he took a phone away from a person during an argument. Although a juvenile, Dungey's past juvenile record resulted in the court waiving him into adult court.

"Hopefully you will take advantage of this opportunity and avoid having a long life in and out of jail," Judge Herman said.

Sydney Dianne Moore, 27, of Sodus, pleaded guilty to stalking and was sentenced to 18 months probation, credit for 113 days served and $1,515 in fines and costs.

Moore

The incident occurred Sept. 5, 2024 in Dowagiac. Police were called to a relative's home when Moore was there despite a no contact order.

"If you work with probation, you can get your life back on track," Judge Herman said. "I'm willing to give you this opportunity but this is something you have to seriously address."

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Failure at substation causes Niles area power outage

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Utility crews were able to restore power to thousands of customers in the greater Niles area Jan. 31 following an outage that impacted all of the Niles Electric Utility's service area.

The Niles Electric Utility provides energy to the City of Niles and many surrounding jurisdictions. According to a news release from the City of Niles, the utility experienced an unusual outage of about one hour and forty-five minutes affecting all of the utility's service area. While the exact cause and chain of events is still being analyzed it appears there was a failure at a privately-owned substation which is supplied energy from an AEP substation. The failure caused AEP to isolate their substation, which caused the City's main substation that also receives energy from AEP to trip. The City has a back

See OUTAGE, Page A8

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

S	O	D		C	A	S	H		B	A	N	E
O	B	I		O	R	E	O		U	V	E	A
N	E	O		N	I	N	E		C	E	N	T
G	Y	R	A	T	E	D		G	O	R	E	S
			L	O	S		T	E	L			
R	A	C	E	R		S	I	M	I	L	A	R
O	U	R		T	A	C	K		C	U	J	O
T	R	A	M		L	A	I	R		N	A	P
C	A	B	I	N	E	T		O	H	A	R	E
			L	O	C		B	O	A			
R	A	P	I	D		S	I	S	T	I	N	E
A	L	I	T		M	I	N	T		P	O	P
R	A	N	I		U	R	G	E		S	U	E
A	N	T	A		D	E	E	R		O	N	E

SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

9	7	1	2	6	5	4	3	8
4	5	2	3	7	8	6	1	9
3	8	6	9	4	1	5	2	7
2	6	9	4	5	3	8	7	1
1	4	5	8	2	7	3	9	6
7	3	8	1	9	6	2	5	4
8	9	4	7	3	2	1	6	5
5	2	7	6	1	4	9	8	3
6	1	3	5	8	9	7	4	2

CHARGED

Continued from page A3

cash, made point-of-sale purchases, and wrote checks to herself.

"Too often, we see the assets of vulnerable adults unlawfully siphoned away when they move into a residential care setting," said Nessel. "We will continue to hold people who take advantage of older adults accountable."

Cavner is scheduled to appear for a Probable Cause Conference on February 12, 2025, and a Preliminary Examination on February 18, 2025. She was released on a personal recognizance bond.

The Attorney General's Health Care Fraud Division (HCFD) handled this case for the Department. The HCFD is the federally certified Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for Michigan, and it receives 75% of its funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under a grant award totaling $5,703,460.00 for the fiscal year 2025. The remaining 25% percent, totaling $1,901,152.00, is funded by the State of Michigan.

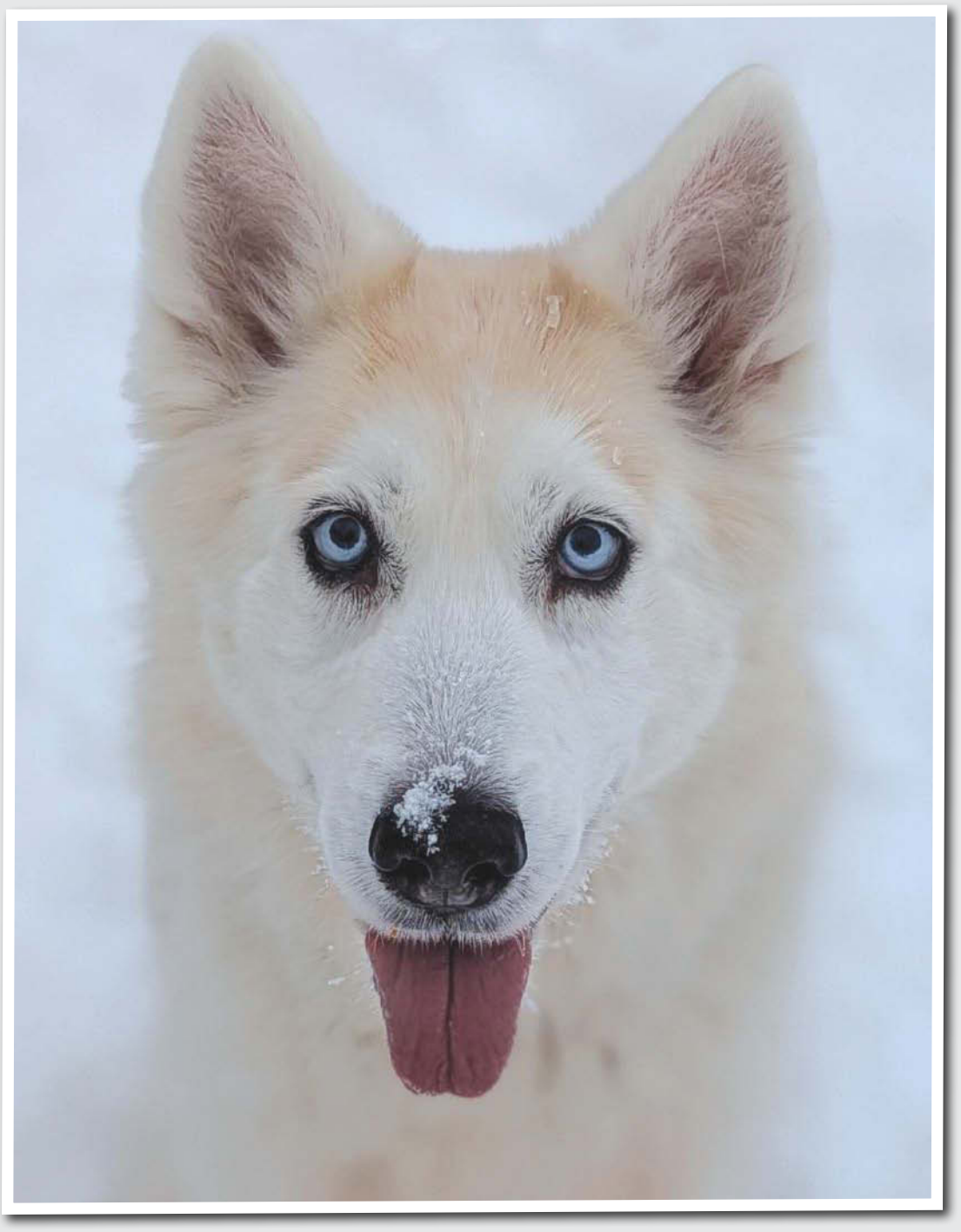
LEGACY

Continued from page A4

the Carriage House a UGRR station and community farm museum. The Bogue House allows visitors to experience part of the Kentucky Raid, and the attic where slaves were hidden. All are open for tours June through September. Brownsville School, integrated from its opening c. 1840 until it closed in 1957, will be preserved as an original structure, embodying the legacy of the UGRR in Calvin Township.

URSCC has fulfilled their mission of researching and educating the public about the UGRR in Cass County by a comprehensive website ursec.org, a UGRR 20 site, self guided driving tour around Vandalia, and annual events--the student UGRR Wax Museum, Underground Railroad Days festival, and Christmas at the Bonine House. The other part of the mission, restoring the Bonine House, Carriage House, Bogue House and Brownsville School as focal points for telling this story, is ongoing. URSCC has an active Board of Directors and Docent group, and over four hundred members. They have received local, state and national grants, as well as honors and awards. Local UGRR sites are well represented on the National Parks Service Network work to Freedom, and in process with the National Register of Historic Places. URSCC has a track record that it is proud of and appreciates the support to keep telling this story that transcends time and resonates with everyone.

PET OF THE WEEK



Isabella is described by volunteers as a friendly, affectionate girl who loves to be with people. She's very interested in children, having shown affection with BCAS' youngest volunteer. Isabella's playful spirit finds her frolicking with stuffed animals or loving a romp, especially in snow. She is very good at cuddling and leash walking and enjoys car rides. Isabella is spayed, housetrained and current on shots. No cats and prefers being the only dog. Contact Berrien County Animal Services at (269) 927-5648.

OBITUARIES

Continued from page A6

Mary Lee Anderson

February 4, 1920 - January 1, 2025

Long-time Resident of Dowagiac, Michigan, Laid to Rest

Funeral Services for Mrs. Mary Lee Anderson, who was 104 years old, was held January 10, 2025, at Brown Funeral Home in Niles, Michigan. Mary Lee passed away peacefully at Corewell Health Hospital in Niles, Michigan, on January 1, 2025.

She was born on February 4, 1920, in Quincy, Florida, to the late Elijah and Sarah Davis. She was the last of 14 children to pass away.

Mary Lee met and married Jamie Anderson on February 14, 1946. Their lives together began in the states of Georgia and Florida. They had four children while living in the South: Lefoy, Betty Jean, Roger, and Lettie Ann. Later, Mary Lee and Jamie moved their family to Denver, Colorado, and resided there for a few years. In 1950, they decided to move to Michigan to be closer to relatives. They settled in Dowagiac, Michigan, where they parented three more children: Marian Delores, Richard Elijah, and Jamie, Jr.

Because of her loving spirit, Mary Lee devoted her entire life to taking care of others. She shared what little she had with anyone who was in need, always opening her doors to those who needed food to eat or a place to sleep. She worked for 20 years as a domestic engineer for the local dentist and his wife, the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Neff. She was instrumental in helping them raise their children, while at the same time raising her own children.

Mary Lee leaves to cherish her memories, five remaining children: Lefoy Anderson, Lettie Ann Buck, and Marion Delores Anderson, all of Dowagiac, Michigan; Richard Elijah Anderson of Little Rock, Arkansas; and Jamie Anderson, Jr., (Vickie) of Columbus, Ohio; 13 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and 23 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jamie Anderson, Sr., and by two of her children, Betty Jean Anderson and Roger Anderson.

Mary Lee was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

Marian Teter

June 3, 1939 - January 25, 2025

Marian Louise (Ishamel) Teter June 3, 1939 - January 25, 2025 EDWARDSBURG MI

Marian L. Teter was born June 3, 1939 in Coloma, MI and entered the Kingdom of Heaven on Saturday, January 25, 2025. Marian was the second born of four children to her now deceased parents, Walter Hovey Ishmael, and Adeline Louise (Messal) Ishmael. Marian was born and briefly raised in Coloma, MI, before moving to her childhood home in Watervilet, MI. She was incredibly intelligent, loved school, and graduated from Watervilet High School in 1957 with honors as the "outstanding girl" (valedictorian) of her class. Marian married the love of her life, Jack L. Teter Sr., on November 4, 1961. Jack and Marian were married for nearly 54 years. The love Jack and Marian shared was immeasurable and evident to everyone around them. Jack, the ever devoted husband, often credited God and Marian's love, for changing his life.

After several relocations due to Jack's promotions and career, Marian and Jack made their home in Edwardsburg, MI. Where they raised her most valued legacy... her six children, eighteen grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren. Marian only knew how to love with her whole heart; she was always smiling with a twinkle in her eye, and was happiest when her whole family surrounded her on the family farm. Marian took after her mother by welcoming everyone to her home. She was "Mom Teter" to all of her children's friends. Marian loved and embraced her many nieces and nephews as her own and let many stay for summer visits creating treasured memories at Aunt Marian and Uncle Jack's. Marian and Jack hosted many epic gatherings like family celebrations, reunions, and get-togethers for school events. The gatherings included Marian's wonderful home cooked meals, her favorite horse and buggy, or hay rides by Jack, as well as lots of music and laughter around campfires. On Teter Misty Acres (TMA), Marian and Jack raised registered quarter horses, registered hereford show cattle, and later expanded to include various exotic birds and animals. Marian also loved to travel with Jack and the family, and treasured making memories together during their annual family "Teter Takeover" vacations in Bear Lake MI. In later years Jack and Marian beautifully restored their 1800's farm home on TMA, built a custom home on Lake Yale in Leesburg, FL. Where they enjoyed picturesque sunrises, sunsets, biking, fishing, and warm weather. Marian often started the vision and Jack would grow the vision and make it happen; Marian and Jack were the perfect team!

Marian was groundbreaking in the field of real estate for over thirty-two years. Marian began her career in real estate in 1974 and became the broker/owner of Teter Reality, Inc. in 1981. Marian was one of the first women in the Southwest Michigan Region to earn her Certified Real Estate Broker (CRB) designation in real estate, and also earned her Graduate of Real Estate Institute (GRI) designation. She was a highly decorated realtor with multiple 'Top Selling and Top Listing Agent of the Year' awards for many years. Marian was also a people person who cared deeply for both her clients and agents working for her, she considered them all family. Marian's professional legacy lives on through her daughter Tonya whom she mentored, and after working beside Marian for decades, Tonya has and continues to own and operate Teter Realty, Inc. since 2013.

Marian was a women who had a deep love for her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Marian especially loved sharing her great testimony of God's love and grace with all she knew, and always considered herself a work in progress. Nineteen years ago, Marian faced a pancreatic cancer diagnosis with a 2% survival rate; she overcame this and more. Marian recovered from a stroke in 2021, and valiantly fought and managed Parkinson's disease for over a decade with humor, courage, and faith. Marian was a true warrior, and vowed to never give in or give up! With unwavering faith and determination, Marian gave God ALL of the glory for miraculous healing and recoveries. Marian was deeply grateful to her devoted husband Jack, her 6 faithful children, her loving family, and many friends for their immense prayers, love and support. Due to an unexpected health situation and multiple complications, Marian fiercely battled but could not overcome. Surrounded at Tonya's home by her loving children and grandchildren, God chose to call Marian home to spend eternity in heaven's paradise with Jesus Christ, her beloved Jack, triplet daughter Tracy, and several family members. Marian had a one of a kind soul that shined incredibly bright. She was a member of Community Baptist Church and renewed her vows with Jack for their 40th wedding anniversary there. She also enjoyed the many blessings of watching several of her children and grandchildren get baptizes, join as members, get married and attend Community Baptist Church; all were memories Marian treasured.

Marian is survived by her children whom she was very proud to call her own; James E. Teter, Scotty L. Teter (Susan), Tamara L. (Teter) Boyer (Timothy), Tonya I Teter-Hans (John), Jack (Jay) L. Teter Jr. (Heather), Misty D. (Teter) Welburn (Jason), her eighteen grandchildren, sixteen grandchildren. Also surviving are her younger brother James R. Ishamel (Kay), younger sister Frances I. (Ishmael) Eddy (Phil Eddy, deceased), Lela Joyce (Teter) Weber (Sister in law and best friend), Jeri Lowe (Teter) Hayden, her best friend Leona Fuller and family, and her many loving cousins, nieces and nephews in the Teter, Ishmael and Messal families. Preceding Marian in death are her husband Jack L. Teter, Sr. in 2015, triplet daughter Tracy Clara Teter, deceased after birth in 1964, her older brother Walter Edwards Ishmael (Wally) passed away in 2006, older half-brother William Frank Ishmael passed in 1981 in MO., and half sister Pearl (Ishmael) Lewis, passed in 2010 in Ramsey, IL.

All of this .... just because two people fell in love.

**Visitation with family will be on Saturday, February 15, 2025 (4:00 - 6:00) at the Community Church, 28647 US-12, Edwardsburg. The Service of Remembrance will be at 6:00 PM. Officiating will be a dear friend of Jack and Marian & Father to Jay and Heather (Polis) Teter, Rev. Patrick Polis, from Knoxville, TN. Burial will be at the Five Points Cemetery at a later date. Cremation has taken place. The family has requested that memorial donations be made in memory of Jack and Marian to "The Jack and Marian Teter Music and Fine Arts Scholarship Fund" in care of: Circle Federal Credit Union 501 North Main St., Niles, Michigan 49120. This scholarship will be awarded to an Edwardsburg Senior furthering their education in music. Arrangements handled by Paul E. Mayhew Funeral Home, 26863 West Main Street, Edwardsburg, MI.

Notre Dame celebrates Black History Month

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Black History Month, observed annually in the United States during the month of February, provides an opportunity to reflect on the achievements, experiences and heritage of Black Americans. The University of Notre Dame will celebrate Black History Month with a variety of activities and resources.

ThinkND, an online learning community created by the Notre Dame Alumni Association, has curated a Black History Month Collection with stories that highlight the experiences, contributions and impact of Black students, alumni, faculty and the wider Notre Dame family. Featured content includes:

• "Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary Podcast: The Use and Misuse of Civil Rights History" (presented by the Klau Institute for Civil and Human Rights)

• "Stereotypes, Representation and Real Talk: Black Law Students Speak Out" (The DEI Podcast with Max Gaston, presented by Notre Dame Law School)

• "Black Domers: The Future of Social Justice" (presented by the Black Alumni of Notre Dame and the University of Notre Dame Alumni Association)

• Maquette for Wing Generator (a sculpture by Richard Hunt, presented by The Raclin Murphy Museum of Art)

The campus community is also invited to take part in a number of events to be held throughout the month, including:

• Feb. 6: Women's basketball game, 8:30 p.m., Purcell Pavilion

As part of its ongoing Together Irish commitments, Notre Dame Athletics will recognize Black History Month during the women's basketball game between Notre Dame and Stanford University. During the game, Athletics will celebrate recipients of Student Government's Black Excellence Awards, which honors students, faculty and staff who exemplify excellence, impact on the Black community and the values of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

• Feb. 11: AfroBites & Mug Delights, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Center for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community Kitchen, LaFortune Student Center

AfroBites & Mug Delights is a special event celebrating both Black History Month and the spirit of Valentine's Day. Dance Africa will lead a dance lesson, giving participants the chance to groove to vibrant beats. Attendees can then make red velvet mug cakes. Faculty and staff are welcome to join students for this event, sponsored by Multicultural Student Programs and Services and Dance Africa.

• Feb. 12: A Welcome and Celebration of the Initiative on Race and Resilience 2025 Artist in Residence: Brendan Fernandes, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Room 300 O'Shaughnessy Hall

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

All are welcome to meet Brendan Fernandes, a multidisciplinary artist who is at the forefront of the discussion about the hybridity of identity, interrogating the social and political concerns of marginalized communities, and examining the body's role in human expression. This residency is made possible with the additional collaboration of the Raclin Murphy Museum of Art and the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

• Feb. 15: A Tribute to Motown, 7:30 p.m., Leighton Concert Hall, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

This concert of Motown music features hits sung by vocalists and backed by a band known for bringing the Motor City sound to life. The catalog includes legends like Stevie, Teena Marie, Smokey, The Isley Brothers, the Temptations and hits written by Ashford and Simpson. The DJ set begins at 7:30 p.m., and the concert starts at 8 p.m. This event is part of the DeBartolo Performing Art Center Presenting Series' Cultural Collective, programming supporting equitable artistic development in the community.

• Feb. 19: Sojourner Truth Keynote Address: How Anti-Racism Lost the Popular Vote: Race, Performance and the Idea of America, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Room 300 O'Shaughnessy Hall

The Initiative on Race and Resilience's third annual Sojourner Truth Keynote Address will feature Harvey Young, dean of the College of Fine Arts at Boston University and professor of English, theater arts and African-American and Black diaspora studies.

• Feb. 19: Men's basketball game, 7 p.m., Purcell Pavilion

As part of its ongoing Together Irish commitments, Notre Dame Athletics will recognize Black History Month during the men's basketball game between Notre Dame and Southern Methodist University. The game will also highlight the work the University has done, and will continue to do, to foster more extensive collaborations and strengthen the community.

• Feb. 20: Legendary Karaoke presented by the Black Faculty and Staff Association, 5 to 8 p.m., Legend's Night Club

• Feb. 22: Lakecia Benjamin, 7:30 p.m., Leighton Concert Hall, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

Native New Yorker Lakecia Benjamin is a saxophonist and bandleader, recognized as the Rising Star Alto Saxophonist in the 2020 Downbeat Critics Poll and the Up and Coming Artist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association. She has had tour dates with Rashied Ali, Christian McBride, Gregory Porter and James "Blood" Ulmer. Additionally, Benjamin's expertise as an arranger and horn section leader has been sought after by acclaimed artists such as Anita Baker. Benjamin's quintet was selected to debut in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center and act as clinicians for the 2025 Notre Dame Collegiate Jazz Festival.

• Feb. 23: Live Podcast Recording: The Black Myth Podcast, 4 to 6 p.m., Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

The Black Myth Podcast is an informative, conversational show analyzing popular myths about Black culture of a sociopolitical nature. The cast will be live-recording an episode in the Browning Cinema and opening the doors for everyone to check out the process. The episode will explore the themes of the 1988 drama film "Lean on Me," with a focus on debunking the ideas of tough love, tough on crime and law and order as being helpful to Black youth.

OUTAGE

Continued from page A6

up substation for such events but it also tripped due to the system impact from this event.

Substations trip off line to protect the entire system much the same as a breaker in a residence trips to protect the home. Once AEP was able to isolate the damaged substation Niles electric crews were able to reenergize the City's systems. While very inconvenient the system performed as designed to protect the larger system from damage which could result in extended outages for customers.

The Niles Fire Department and supporting staff were able to control a small fire at the privately-owned substation. The Niles Police Department called in additional staff to monitor roadway conditions and patrol neighborhoods while the outage was ongoing.

TALKS

Continued from page A1

Street corridor from Fulkerson Road south to the state line.

She said that a final draft of the proposed marijuana rules should be done by the end of the month. She added that the planning commission is working on the specifics of special use and zoning requirements.

Also Monday, board members set a public hearing for their March 3 meeting on the Shamrock Hills subdivision special assessment project to pay for road improvements. Durm-Hiatt said there are 53 parcels in that subdivision and more than 50 percent have requested the special assessment.

The project is expected to cost $293,000 with the township agreeing to cover half of the costs. The cost for property owners is expected to be $2,756 per parcel and can be paid over 10 years. There is a total of .82 of a mile of road in the subdivision which is off of Niles-Buchanan Road.

The March 3 public hearing is to hear comments from property owners on the project. If a majority still want to move forward, the board will order that an official assessment roll be prepared as to how much it will cost each property owner. There will then be another public hearing before the project is approved. The work is scheduled to be done this summer.

Board members approved waiving the penalties for people paying property taxes after the Feb. 14 deadline but before the Feb. 28 date when delinquent taxes go to the county. They also approved letting an annual gravel mine safety meeting be held March 11 at the south fire station.

Durm-Hiatt reported that the Community Park project is moving forward. The township received a $908,000 Michigan Department of Natural Resources "Spark" grant last year and will be building a new pavilion and pickle ball courts at the park located on Bond Street.

SHOOTING

Continued from page A1

ammunition in an open area that others could access.

Defense attorney Carri Briseno pointed out that this was Harper's first felony conviction. "She was living a life where she would never think to do something this," she said. "She's spent a significant period of time in jail and has had time to think about her actions and the danger she put the community in."

"I've had a lot of people who say they're remorseful and you can't see any remorse," Briseno added. "She's expressed remorse since the first day I met her."

Berrien County Trial Court Judge Jennifer Smith said she took into account not only the danger of the situation but also Harper's lack of much of a prior record, her remorse and the letters of support she received on Harper's behalf. Harper's only previous conviction was for drunk driving in 2023.

Judge Smith noted that Harper has otherwise been a contributing member of society and crime free before the last two years. She did say however that she was concerned that nine days passed between the time Harper first talked to police and finally told them where the weapons were.

"Those were nine days that others could have found the guns and the ammunition," the judge said. "That would ad to what was already a tragic situation that was very serious. I know you had nothing to do with the initial homicide but the delay in telling police could have had an effect on the investigation."

"I have to take all that into consideration," Judge Smith said. "I believe you are remorseful for what you did, but there has to be some sort of punishment. This sentence balances the weight of a serious case with the fact you have no prior serious record and you showed remorse."

In two other sentencings:

Engelberg

• Keane Garrett Engelberg, 40, of Niles, pleaded guilty to resisting and obstructing police and use of meth and was sentenced to five months in jail with credit for 74 days served and $248 in fines and costs. The incident occurred Nov. 22 in Niles.

Fuzi

• Gregory Mathew Fuzi, 42, of Niles, pleaded guilty to second offense use of meth and disorderly person and was sentenced to credit for four days served and $535 in fines and costs. The incident occurred Nov. 19 in Niles.

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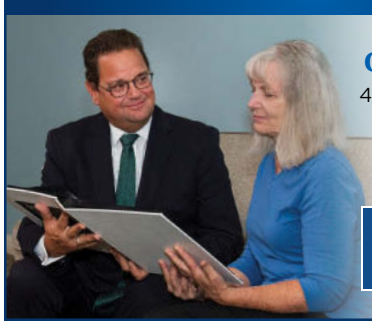
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WRESTLING

Dowagiac wins record eighth straight district title

By MMAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac wrestling team extended its school record for most consecutive district titles in any sport by defeating Buchanan and Berrien Springs for their eighth straight championship. The Chieftains knocked off Lakeland Conference foe Buchanan in the semifinals 63-18 and then defeated the Shamrocks, another league opponent, 51-25 in the championship match.

Berrien Springs advanced to the finals with a 48-35 victory over Brandywine, also out of the Lakeland Conference.

Dowagiac will face Coloma Wednesday in the Division 3 Regional. Before that, the Chieftain boys will host the Division 3 Individual District Tournament Saturday and the girls will host the girls individual district tournament Sunday.

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WRESTLING

Niles' Brawley earns 100th career win on mat

COMMUNITY REPORT

ST. JOSEPH — A Niles wrestler reached a milestone Wednesday during Division 2 district action at St. Joseph High School.

Junior Chase Brawley picked up his 100th win on the mat as the Vikings fell to eventual district champion St. Joseph 59-21 in the semifinal round. Edwardsburg fell to Lakeshore 55-21. Next up for the boys team is individual districts today at Lakeshore and Sunday at Dowagiac for the girls.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

LMC WOMEN'S SPORTS

POWERHOUSE PLAYERS

LMC Women's Athletics Turns 50

COMMUNITY REPORT

BENTON HARBOR — On National Girls and Women in Sports Day, Feb. 5, 2025, Lake Michigan College spotlighted 50 years of women's athletics at LMC. The day brings attention to the accomplishments of girls and women while promoting equality in sports.

The College currently fields five women's teams - basketball, cross country, soccer, softball, and volleyball – which are represented by 70 female student-athletes during the 2024-2025 season. The Red Hawks compete as part of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) and the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

The LMC women's athletic program began during the 1974-1975 season. This was at a time when gender equality in many aspects of American life was emerging including Title IX which granted women equal access to education programs and activities, including intercollegiate athletics.

The program began under the leadership of three-sport coach Liz Miller. Volleyball and basketball debuted first, with softball introduced as a club sport and elevated to intercollegiate competition two years later during the 1976-1977 season.

In 1978, Miller became LMC's athletic director, during which time she continued coaching softball and volleyball. In addition to being the first female athletic director at LMC, she was also the first female athletic director of both a men's and women's intercollegiate program in Michigan.

The program flourished under Miller's leadership. She led the volleyball squad to two national tournament appearances while the softball program became a national powerhouse with 10 appearances at the NJCAA National Tournament between 1981 and 1991.

The tradition of excellence established by Miller set an ongoing tone of progress and achievement for women's athletics that continues today. Notable achievements include:

•In 1981, track team standout Sheila Atcher became the national long jump champion.

•The women's basketball team has advanced to the national tournament 11 times in the program's history.

•In 1993, the softball team won the NJCAA national championship.

•The softball team has made a total of 16 national tournament appearances, including the most recent in 2024.

•Women's soccer was added in 2012.

•In addition to Miller, two other women have served as LMC athletic director: former three-sport LMC athlete and two-time All-American Kathy Leitke from 1991-2000, and former softball coach

See LMC, Page B2

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Doug Schaffer, Lake Michigan College Vice President, Advancement & Community Impact and Executive Director, LMC Foundation, recognized former LMC Athletic Director and Coach Liz Miller (center) during the naming ceremony of the Liz Miller Athletics Office Suite on the Benton Harbor campus before Tuesday's volleyball match between LMC and Glen Oaks. Other LMC officials pictured include LMC Board of Trustees Chairman John Grover and Trustee Debra Johnson (left) and Melissa Grau, LMC Executive Director, Intercollegiate Athletics and Campus Life (right).

BASKETBALL

Defense pulls Brandywine girls past Vicksburg in 45-28 victory

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Two senior-laden and conference leading girls basketball programs squared off Tuesday in the Bobcat Den at Brandywine.

The Division 3 No. 1-ranked and unbeaten Lady Bobcats used a stingy defense, quickness and depth to hand Vicksburg its second consecutive loss with a big 45-28 non-conference win.

Vicksburg, now 13-2, was the only team to hand Brandywine, last year's state runners-up, a loss during the regular season. The Bulldogs, who suffered its first defeat against Paw Paw on Friday, made it all the way to the Division 2 state quarterfinals last season.

Brandywine entered the contest averaging 58.3 points per game but head coach Josh Hood stated afterwards that scoring bunches of points isn't a high priority.

"In my 16 years here at Brandywine it has never been about us trying to score 70, 80 or 90 points. The staple of our program is shell defense. If you can hold a team like Vicksburg that has five senior starters that are going to be college athletes to just 28 points, then you are playing great team defense," Hood said.

See BRANDYWINE, Page B2

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Brandywine senior point guard Miley Young (22) drives in for a layup against Vicksburg's Hannah DeVries Tuesday in the Lady Bobcats' home victory.

BOWLING

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KRISTI WESTON | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Niles bowling earns Senior Night sweep over Paw Paw

COMMUNITY REPORT

NILES — It was senior night for the Niles Vikings bowling team as they took on the Paw Paw Red Wolves in their last home conference meet Wednesday.

The boys team defeated Paw Paw 29-1 and the girls girls won 23-7. The Vikings came into the match with a record of 4-2 while the Red Wolves had a 0-6 record. Senior Adam Jackson led the team with a 397 series and senior Andrew Pease had a 315 series while senior Hunter Kater with a 300 series.

For the girls, senior Ayrial Vail finished with a series of 166 and freshmen Kenley Weston with a series of 251. Sophomore Miley Kater had a 268 series and Sophomore Alexis Kidwell led the lady Vikings with a 328 series. The Vikings head into the Wolverine Conference tournament on Thursday, Feb. 13.

BASKETBALL

Gobles' Wood signs with SMC

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Zoie Wood of Gobles High School has signed her NJCAA Letter of Intent to run cross country for Coach Zac Sartori and the Roadrunners. Wood will also compete in track and field for SMC.

Coach Sartori said, ""From the moment Zoie reached out and expressed interest to join our program I was very excited to meet her. She has an infectious positive attitude, and I am really looking forward to her joining the program and helping to build upon the success that we've strived to achieve over these past few years. Zoie Wood is going to make some big moves these next two years!"

Coach Marc Kline added, "Zoie is an amazing, high-character young lady! She is kind and has been a strong catalyst to build team unity, which has contributed to our success. After a lot of pestering on my part, Zoie finally came out for cross country her freshman year to run at the Portage Invitational. That made five runners for us...and what an important add to Gobles Cross Country. She always has a smile on her face and works hard to make sure everyone feels welcome. I don't think there are many things she chooses to do that aren't successful. From singing to academic work, racing, basketball, leading groups, making morning announcements, she can seemingly do it all."

Wood is the fourth member of SMC's 2025 Women's Cross Country recruiting class, joining Trinity Mortimore of Decatur, Emily King of Martin and Lillian Wolf of Hartford.

Student-athletes interested in competing on any of SMC's nine intercollegiate teams as a Roadrunner should complete the Recruiting Form at https://smcroadrunners.com/landing/index

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LMC

Continued from page B1

Mel Grau from 2017-present.

•Women's cross country was added in 2022.

•In 2023, Olivia Ippel captured the individual NJCAA Division II women's cross country national championship.

"With all the options young women have in sports today, it's difficult to imagine a time when those didn't exist. The trailblazers who worked to close the opportunity gap between men and women in athletics deserve our gratitude. It's because of them that so many student-athletes are benefiting today," stated Mel Grau, Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Campus Life.

The success of women's athletics at LMC isn't just measured in wins and championships.

"From day one, I stress how important the degree is here," said former LMC student-athlete and current Red Hawks softball coach Katie Scheuer. "School comes first."

This has been a guiding philosophy across all sports since the beginning, and women's athletics have played a big role in LMC's record of academic success. Since 1985, when Karla Huebner became the first LMC women's NJCAA Academic All-American, LMC has had a long history of female student athletes who have earned this honor. This includes 47 in the past five seasons, nine of who are two-time Academic All-Americans.

NJCAA also recognizes Academic All-American Teams of the Year for a collective team GPA of 3.0 or greater. LMC softball, volleyball, and women's soccer have earned that recognition three of the past six seasons, and women's basketball twice during the same period.

In addition to LMC celebrating 50 years of women's athletics, NJCAA is recognizing the 50th anniversary of its women's division. NJCAA became the first intercollegiate organization to establish a women's division in 1975 and currently hosts 30 national championships and invitationals.

BRANDYWINE

Continued from page B1

"I told our girls afterwards that its so important for us to be in these kinds of four or five point games and to have to face adversity. This wasn't an easy game because Vicksburg is long and athletic in that great zone defense they play. You have to take advantage of chances when you have them. Tonight we were able to execute some sets and get some buckets at key moments. I'm so proud of the tenacity of our girls."

Brandywine's superior depth showed with eight different players contributing in the scoring column.

Adelyn Drotoz paced the Bobcats with 11 points, while Adeline Gill finished with eight, Karleigh Byrd seven, Lilly Gill six and Mackenna Price contributed five points.

Brandywine finished 15-of-43 (35 percent) from the floor, including six triples, and 9-of-16 (56.2 percent) at the foul stripe.

"The nice thing about our team is we have a lot of good shooters. It's hard for teams to focus on one person. Miley (Young) created a couple turnovers for us at the start tonight and everything is so calm when she's in the game. Adeline (Gill) brings so much athleticism for us in the middle and Byrd and Drotoz, along with Ireland all hit big shots for us too," Hood said.

"Win or lose all these tough non-conference games that we play serve to get us ready for the tournament in March. We're proud to come out on top, but we have lot of work to do yet to ourselves ready for March Madness."

Vicksburg was paced in scoring by Makayla Allen with eight followed by Hannah DeVries' seven points and Scarlett Hosner and Kendra Cooley added six apiece.

The Bulldogs shot just 7-of-43 (16.3 percent) from the floor and 10-of-17 (59 percent) from the charity stripe.

Vicksburg held two brief leads in the first quarter including a 7-4 lead after two free-throw tosses by the senior guard Allen. Byrd's triple for Brandywine moments later evened it up at 7-7. Hosner's charity tosses a few seconds after that gave the Bulldogs what would turn out to be its final lead of the night at 9-7. With time running out in the period though, Byrd dished the ball off to Ireland Prenkert who drained another triple to put Brandywine up 10-9.

Brandywine increased its lead to four to start the second quarter before Vicksburg DeVries' putback pulled the Bulldogs back within three, 14-11. But three pointers by Drotoz and sophomore Price along with two free throws from Young extended the home team's lead to 22-11 with 2:05 left in the half.

Vicksburg was able to whittle its deficit to single digits before the break on a pair of DeVries steals and layups. Price hit a midrange jumper that gave Brandywine a 24-15 cushion at intermission.

Byrd's bucket inside with 4:31 left in the third stanza pushed Brandywine's lead to double digits again at 26-16. Triples from Mann and Cooley pulled the Bulldogs back within six, 29-23. But two charity tosses from Adeline Gill put Brandywine on top 31-25 entering the fourth quarter.

Vicksburg crept back within five, 33-28 on Allen's triple with 6:47 left in the game. Brandywine, however, went on to outscore its guests 14-3 in the period, including several easy layups down the stretch off steals.

Vicksburg outrebounded Brandywine 27-24. Adeline Gill grabbed six boards for the Bobcats, while Prenkert snagged four.

Young also had four steals for Brandywine and four assists.

Brandywine's pressure defense forced Vicksburg into 13 of its 23 turnovers in the first half. The Bobcats had just 10 turnovers.

"Brandywine is a good team and we knew that coming in. They are ranked No. 1 in Division 3 for a reason. We had a few too many turnovers in that first half, but I thought we really fought hard in the second half. This group of girls never quits. Both teams are experienced, but they did what they had to do to come out on top tonight," said Vicksburg head coach Tim Kirby.

Brandywine returns to Lakeland Conference action at home Friday against Benton Harbor.

DAILY DATA

SAT., FEB. 1

BOYS BASKETBALL
NILES 52, MUSKEGON REETHS PUFFER 46
At Kalamazoo Loy Norrix
MUSKEGON REETHS PUFFER (46): Marvin Moore 22, Drew Brooks 7, Elliot Schneider 5, Brayden Mitchelson 5, Kristian Brown 7. Totals 18 3-4 46.
NILES (52): Quinton King Jr. 6, Brayden Favors 11, Andre Wells 18, Brendan Olsen 10, Acie Kirtdoll 0, Donovyn Williams 7. Totals 20 10-17 52.
Reeths Puffer 9 13 24 46
Niles 12 23 36 52
3-point baskets: Muskegon Reeths Puffer 7 (Moore 4, Brooks 1, Mitchelson 1, Brown 1), Niles 2 (King Jr. 1, Wells 1). Total fouls: Muskegon Reeths Puffer 13, Niles 10. Records: Muskegon Reeths Puffer 5-11, Niles 9-7

BRANDYWINE 58, WATERVLIET 48
At Kalamazoo Loy Norrix
WATERVLIET (48): Caleb Jewell 1, Jacob Querfurth 3, Jacob Pleyer 17, Emmett Williams 10, Owen Epple 9, G. Collins 2, H. Domingo 4, T. Asakeviech 2. Totals 18 5--6 48.
BRANDYWINE (58): J.J. Henry 1, Nylen Goins 17, Elighia Burt 12, Will Hubbard 10, Ryder Richard 18, Emerson Gogley 0. Totals 19 18-19 58.
Watervliet 14 23 31 48
Brandywine 6 21 40 58
3-point baskets: Watervliet 7 (Pleyer 3, Epple 3, Williams 1), Brandywine 2 (Goins 1, Richard 1). Total fouls: Watervliet 17, Brandywine 9. Records: Watervliet 7-9, Brandywine 9-6
Highlights: Goins scored 13 and Richard 11 in the second half as Brandywine rallied for the win.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
BERRIEN SPRINGS 69, NILES 46
At Berrien Springs
NILES (46): Jessie Thornton 21, Tanaya Brown 15, Gianna Ball 4, Maddie Zache 0, Kayla Kiggins 3, Ari Gerrits 3, Khloe Matlock 0. Totals 15 8-12 46.
BERRIEN SPRINGS (69): Lillian Weigand 3, Adeline Weber 8, Zion Ellis 21, Kathryn Bergan 1, Hindra Pawa 8, Addison Frakes 14, Aubre Smith 14. Totals 27 10-17 69.
Niles 13 26 35 46
Berrien Springs 16 38 49 69
3-point baskets: Niles 8 (Thornton 4, Brown 2, Ball 1, Kiggins 1), Berrien Springs 5 (Frakes 2, L. Weigand 1, Weber 1, Pawa 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Niles 13 (Kiggins), Berrien Springs 14. Records: Niles 3-11, Berrien Springs 12-1

MONDAY, FEB. 3

GIRLS BASKETBALL
BUCHANAN 48, NILES 37
At Niles
BUCHANAN (48): Caitlin Horvath 0, Maddie Young 10, Aspen Berry 1, Justyce Cashier 12, Katie Ailes 8, Cam Carlson 2, Alyssa Carson 15. Totals 15 12-27 48.
NILES (37): Jessie Thornton 7, Tanaya Brown 2, Jaliyah Woods 3, Kayla Kiggins 12, Ari Gerrits 12, Khloe Matlock 1, Maddie Zache 0. Totals 13 5-12 37.
Buchanan 12 14 35 48
Niles 11 16 24 37
3-point baskets: Buchanan 6 (Carson 3, Cashier 2, Young 1), Niles 6 (Kiggins 4, Woods 1, Thornton 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Buchanan 12, Niles 18 (Gerrits). Records: Buchanan 7-8, Niles 3-12

BOYS BASKETBALL
BRANDYWINE 60, BRONSON 52
At Bronson
BRANDYWINE (60): J.J. Henry 1, Nylen Goins 20, Elighia Burt 12, Will Hubbard 10, Ryder Richard 14, Emerson Gogley 3. Totals 26 3-6 60.
BRONSON (52)" Layne Arver 2, Kamron Brackett 10, Owen Losinski 6, Spencer Losinski 0, Warner Wotta 11, Boston Bucklin 14, Zeb Olson 9. Totals 21 6-10 52.
Brandywine 24 34 50 60
Bronson 15 28 41 52
3-point baskets: Brandywine 5 (Goins 2, Burt 2, Gogley 1), Bronson 4 (O. Losinski 2, Brackett 1, Wotta 1). Total fouls: Brandywine 12, Bronson 12. Records: Brandywine 10-6, Bronson 7-10

PLAINWELL 50, EDWARDSBURG 46
At Plainwell
EDWARDSBURG (46): Joe Shively 10, Brody Schimpa 11, Maverick Gates 6, Blaise Crist 6, Michael Wright 4, Reed Gates 3, Matt Anders 6. Totals 16 8-16 46.
PLAINWELL (50): Drew Rayman 2, Drew Nelson 6, Chib Amaezechi 16, Nate Launt 3, John Amazechi 11, Chad Winenger 10, Luke Filkins 2. Totals 18 12-19 50.
Edwardsburg 5 17 23 46
Plainwell 12 20 37 50
3-point baskets: Edwardsburg 6 (Schimpa 3, Shively 2, Wright 1), Plainwell 2 (Launt 1, Winenger 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Edwardsburg 18, Plainwell 16 (J. Amazechi). Records: Edwardsburg 10-6 (5-5 Wolverine Conference), Plainwell 10-2 (7-2 Wolverine Conference).

BUCHANAN 48, EAU CLAIRE 43
At Eau Claire
BUCHANAN (48): Tyler Frame 2, Preston Payne 5, Liam McBeth 6, Karmine Brown 11, Jake Franklin 1, Darius Williams 2, Logan Wiggins 2, Will Carson 19. Totals 17 8-12 48.
EAU CLAIRE (43): Austyn Crump 19, Daquarius Travis 10, Kaden Lash 5, Jaden Hill 5, Melvin Davis 0, Rylan Fisher 4. Totals 18 0-2 43.
Buchanan 14 20 35 48
Eau Claire 15 26 31 43
3-point baskets: Buchanan 6 (Carson 3, Brown 1, McBeth 1, Payne 1), Eau Claire 7 (Crump 3, Travis 2, Lash 1, Hill 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Buchanan 6, Eau Claire 16 (Davis). Records: Buchanan 10-6, Eau Claire 4-12

TUESDAY, FEB. 4

GIRLS BASKETBALL
BRANDYWINE 45, COMSTOCK 28
At Niles
COMSTOCK (28): Scarlett Hosner 6, Kendra Cooley 6, Madison Cooley 0, Emily Zemitans 1, Makayla Allen 8, Hannah DeVries 7. Totals 7 10-17 28.
BRANDYWINE (45): Adeline Gill 8, Karleigh Byrd 7, Adelyn Drotoz 11, Ireland Prenkert 3, Mackenna Price 5, Lily Gill 6, Miley Young 3, Niyah Mason 2. 15 9-16 45.
Comstock 9 15 25 28
Brandywine 10 24 31 45
3-point baskets: Comstock 4 (Allen 2, DeVries 1, Cooley 1), Brandywine 6 (Drotoz 3, Byrd 1, Prenkert 1, Price 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Comstock 17 (Allen), Brandywine 15. Records: Comstock 13-2, Brandywine 15-0

CASSOPOLIS 59, BLOOMINGDALE 13
At Cassopolis
BLOOMINGDALE (13): Analyssa Sustaita 0, Gretchen Hutchins 5, Mackenzie Barnes 2, Deeahna Cross 4, Rebecca Youngblood 2. Totals 5 2-5 13.
CASSOPOLIS (59): Mackenzie Boyer 6, Janayla Franklin 9, JaMya Hart 0, Madalynn Yakel 6, Maliyah Flowers 2, Nola Hawkins 2, Madison Nelson 31, Ryley Bowsher 3. Totals 25 5-8 59.
Bloomingdale 5 5 19 13
Cassopolis 16 47 55 59
3-point baskets: Bloomingdale 1 (Cross 1), Cassopolis 4 (Nelson 3, Bowsher 1). Total fouls: Bloomingdale 12, Cassopolis 8. Records: Bloomingdale 2-9 (2-6 Southwest 10), Cassopolis 6-5 (6-3 Southwest 10).

THREE RIVERS 52, DOWAGIAC 36
At Three Rivers
DOWAGIAC (36): Claire Hess 2, Marlie Carpenter 4, Zabrina Shivers 0, Brenna Mott 2, Niya Moss 3, Evie Lock 15, Olivia McIntosh 5, Bree Campbell 3, Jamela Bonds 2. Totals 12 9-17 36.
THREE RIVERS (52): Dani Glass 20, Jennaya Decker 8, Neiraja Reyes 8, Alyssa Stalker 6, Braylee Burg 2, Hannah Colburn 8. Totals 22 6-10 52.
Dowagiac 5 12 23 36
Three Rivers 18 28 44 52
3-point baskets: Dowagiac 3 (Moss 1, Lock 1, Campbell 1), Three Rivers 2 (Glass 2). Total fouls (fouled out): Dowagiac 14 (Carpenter), Three Rivers 15. Records: Dowagiac 4-10, Three Rivers 6-8

NILES 73, BENTON HARBOR 19
At Benton Harbor
NILES (73): Jessie Thornton 31, Gianna Ball 2, Maddie Zache 5, Kayla Kiggins 11, Ari Gerrits 24. Totals 30 10-21 73.
BENTON HARBOR (19): Jaiden Tackett 0, Za'Keira Baxter 9, Lovely Douglas 0, K. Catchings 2, Javie Swift 5, Harmony Smith 3. Totals 8 0-3 19.
Niles 22 40 62 73
Benton Harbor 5 9 17 19
3-point baskets: Niles 3 (Thornton 2, Zache 1), Benton Harbor 3 (Baxter 1, Swift 1, Smith 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Niles 7, Benton Harbor 19 (Douglas). Records: Niles 4-12, Benton Harbor 0-10

BOYS BASKETBALL
THREE RIVERS 61, DOWAGIAC 36
At Dowagiac
THREE RIVERS (61): Drake Graver 3, Brayden Carpenter 12, Blake Stewart 2, Jace Gray 8, Lamonta Stone 6, William Wardell 2, Drake Dibble 1, Matheus Pontes 2, Carter Langston 8, Zander Barth 5, Max Burg 12. Totals 24 9-18 61.
DOWAGIAC (36): Jamal Williams 9, Lamone Moore Jr. 2, Isaiah Fitchett 21, Loren Bowen 0, Chase Frazier 4, Riley McCaffery 0. Totals 12 7-16 36.
Three Rivers 11 23 44 61
Dowagiac 9 16 32 36
3-point baskets: Three Rivers 4 (Langston 2, Graver 1, Carpenter 1), Dowagiac 5 (Fitchett 4, Williams 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Three Rivers 12, Dowagiac 16 (McCaffery). Records: Three Rivers 5-10, Dowagiac 1-14

BENTON HARBOR 76, NILES 71 (OT)
At Niles
BENTON HARBOR (76): Latrell Johnson 16, Jkwon Lewis 27, Desean Mathison 6, Torey Wilson 5, Montell Hobbs 8, Avion Wilson 5, Zamier Clayton 9. Totals 25 19-28 76.
NILES (71): Brayden Favors 20, Andre Wells 20, Brenden Olsen 12, Acie Kirtdoll 4, Derek Hill Jr. 4, Donovyn Williams 7, Jaymes Phillips 4. Totals 24 21-25 71.
Benton Harbor 17 23 48 68 76
Niles 19 34 50 68 71
3-point baskets: Benton Harbor 7 (Johnson 3, Lewis 1, Mathison 1, Clayton 1, Hobbs 1), Niles 2 (Favors 1, Wells 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Benton Harbor 22 (Mathison, Clayton, Hobbs), Niles 23 (Kirtdoll). Records: Benton Harbor 12-5, Niles 9-8

BASKETBALL

Mistakes cost Edwardsburg girls in 55-49 loss at Three Rivers

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Mya Eberlein (21) grabs a rebound for Edwardsburg against Three Rivers during the first half of Friday's game.

THREE RIVERS — A tough week for the Edwardsburg girls' basketball team ended with a 55-49 Wolverine Conference loss at Three Rivers Friday, Jan. 31.

Edwardsburg falls to 11-4 overall and 6-3 in the league. Three Rivers, meanwhile, improves to 3-5 in conference games and 5-8 overall.

Simply put, Scott Rodeslier's Lady Eddies made too many uncharacteristic mistakes and Three Rivers took advantage of them at key moments to pull off the upset.

The win by Three Rivers avenged a 60-29 loss by the Lady Cats on the Eddies' home floor earlier this season.

Three Rivers' defensive pressure forced Edwardsburg into 12 of its 14 turnovers in the second half, including 10 during the fourth quarter.

"Three Rivers played with a lot of inspiration tonight. We had a lot of untimely and uncharacteristic mistakes. Our girls came out of halftime and built a nine-point lead going into the fourth quarter and we felt pretty good about that. We just didn't make enough plays down the stretch to put them away. I felt like we were a step slow all night and we missed some buckets and they (Three Rivers) made baskets at key moments," Rodeslier said.

"It's been a difficut week for us with Shelby Laubach coming off a four-game absence because of a concussion and we've had some other personal things going on with other team members. I was so proud of how hard our kids fought back tonight. We'll bounce back from this."

Laubach, the Lady Eddies 5-foot-7 sophomore starting guard, missed the last four games and was just given clearance to practice on Thursday. She scored just two points in the contest.

Edwardsburg was paced in the scoring column by Maddie Pobuda with 14 points. The senior guard made four of her team's six three-pointers on the night. Kourtney Zarycki chipped in with 12 points followed by Kya Shier with nine and Ella Zache finished with six.

Edwardsburg ended the contest shooting 17-of-65 (26.2 percent) from the field and made 7-of-15 (47 percent) at the foul stripe.

Zarycki also pulled down nine rebounds to lead Edwardsburg.

Edwardsburg fell behind 5-0 to start the contest. The Lady Eddies eventually evened the contest at 14-14 on a bucket from sophomore forward Kya Shier inside. Back-to-back triples to close the first quarter by Pobuda put the visitors out in front 20-18.

Edwardsburg did a nice job getting the ball inside the post for several buckets in the second quarter, including crucial layups by Zarycki, Pobuda and Ella Zache. Glass drained a bank shot near the end of the period that helped the Lady Cats force a 30-30 deadock entering halftime.

A 15-6 Edwardsburg run in the third helped the Eddies build a 45-35 advantage entering the final eight minutes. Zarycki and Zache helped ignite that run with back-to-back layups off steals. Pobuda and Zarycki also had triples during the period and Shier added a putback and free throw. Lauback also had a key basket during that span for the Eddies.

Back-to-back steals and layups by Glass and a Decker triple put Three Rivers in front 52-46 with 2:40 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Shier then hit the second of two free-throw attempts to bring Edwardsburg within five points, 52-47, with 1:21 left.

But Glass would hit three out of four free-throw attempts in the final minute to help preserve the Lady Cats' win.

Glass, Three Rivers' sharpshooting guard, scored a game-high 24 points for the Lady Cats to go along with eight rebounds, five steals and four assists. Jennaya Decker contributed eight points, four rebounds and four steals for the Lady Cats. Alyssa Stalker tossed in eight points and eight rebounds for the home team as well.

Three Rivers outrebounded Edwardsburg 28-23.

Carlie Shoesmith stated after the contest that it was the best game her Three Rivers ballclub has played all season.

"We just came in with the idea that we were going to get the steals and finish shots. Our strength is getting points off our transition game and we found a way to do that tonight," Shoesmith said.

"Jennaya has stepped up the last few games and her leadership has come a long way and Dani had a phenomenal game for us tonight as well. Our two postplayers, Alyssa (Stalker) and Braylee (Burg) played well inside and got some crucial rebounds for us."

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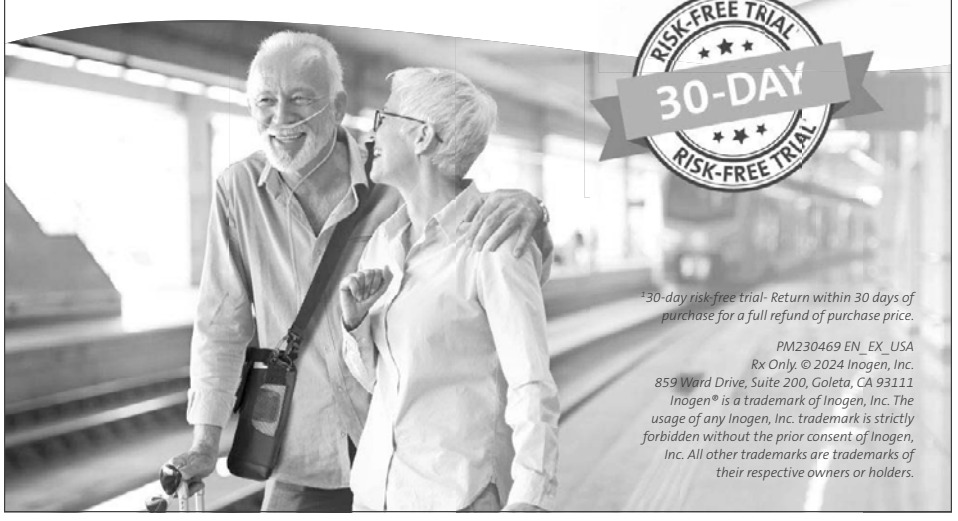

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2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW
ONTWA TOWNSHIP HALL
26225 US 12 E
EDWARDSBURG, MI 49112

BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBERS ONLY:
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 @ 11:00 AM
Organizational meeting to approve the Assessment roll
NO APPEALS are heard during this meeting.

The Ontwa Township Board of Review for 2025 will be held on the following dates:

Monday, March 10TH, 2025 – 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM - Appeals Hearing
Tuesday, March 11TH, 2025 – 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM - Appeals Hearing

Please call the Ontwa Township Hall @ (269) 663-2347 Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM to set an appointment and get any additional information.

Ontwa 2025 Factors

Class	Study Ratio	Equality	Factor
101---Ag	42.42%	50.00%	1.179
201---Com	46.74%	50.00%	1.070
301---Ind	45.20%	50.00%	1.106
401---Res	45.93%	50.00%	1.089

The Board of Review may meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2025 assessments. **Residents that are not currently in area can protest by letter, provided the letter is received no later than 2:00 PM on March 11th, 2025**

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 7 days' notice. Please contact the Township Hall @ (269) 663-2347.

Board of Review Members: Mike Mroczek, Patricia Bellaire & Patty Lauten
Meryl Christensen (Supervisor)—Board of Review Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE
2025 BOARD OF REVIEW
Bertrand Charter Township, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI 49107

BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Bertrand Charter Township Board of Review for 2025 will be held at the Bertrand Charter Township Hall, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, Michigan on the following dates:

Organizational Meeting
Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Appeal Hearing
Monday, March 10, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Appeal Hearing
Wednesday, March 12, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Appeal Hearing
Friday, March 14, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2025 assessments. **By board resolution, residents can protest by letter, provided the protest letter is received by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	50.34%	0.9932
Commercial	48.20%	1.0412
Residential	45.49%	1.0991
Developmental	50.00%	1.0000
Timber Cutover	50.00%	1.0000
Industrial	48.12%	1.0390
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Property Owners may call the Bertrand Township office phone, **269-695-5001** to set an appointment with the Board of Review. Any questions regarding your assessment may also be directed to Bertrand Township Assessor Angie Story, **269-207-2590**.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven-day notice. Contact: Steve Hicks, Supervisor, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI 49107 phone **269-695-5001**.

Polly White
Bertrand Charter Township Clerk
Posted 01/23/2025

Employment

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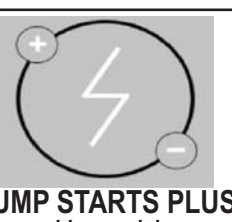

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Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-369-2501

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-844-587-8518

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-691-4117 today!

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 888-815-6233

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation.

Miscellaneous Services

1-844-700-4986

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-855-504-0056

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-833-324-2582

Omaha Steaks Wines. 12 world class wines (and bonus gifts) for ONLY $79.99 (plus s/h.) Save $160! 12 new wine selections plus a FREE $25 Omaha Steaks E-reward card every three months. Cancel anytime. 100% guarantee! Call 1-833-652-3787 and mention code AGJF002 or visit www.GetOSWine.com/sip134

Tree Service

EAGER BEAVER TREE SERVICE
FREE ESTIMATES!!!
•TOTAL REMOVAL, TRIMMING & LOT CLEARING.
•STUMP GRINDING
• STORM DAMAGE
•SEASONED FIREWOOD
SAME DAY SERVICE, EXCELLENT CLEAN-UP
*60 & 80 FT. BUCKET TRUCK
FULLY INSURED.
PLEASE CALL 574-848-5845.

Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Proposed State and Federal Section 5311 Application for Operating and/or Capital Assistance
All citizens are advised that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners has prepared an application for State of Michigan financial assistance for fiscal year 2026, as required under Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended, and for federal assistance as required under the federal transit laws, as amended.
Berrien County is requesting operating and capital transportation funding through the following funding sources:
• $327,094 in State Local Bus Operating
• $192,474 in Federal Section 5311 Operating
• $5,500 in Federal RTAP Training Funds
• $12,000 in Federal STBG (STP) Capital Funds (LCD digital displays in buses)
• $696,800 in Federal CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality) Funds to replace five buses
• $177,200 in State Capital Matching Funds
Berrien County ensures that the level and quality of transportation service is provided without regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information regarding our Title VI obligations or to file a complaint please contact Paul Gillespie, Title VI Coordinator, Berrien County Public Transportation, 4676 E. Shawnee Road, Berrien Springs, MI 49103, 269-471-1100 Ext. 6, 269-471-5624 Fax number, or e-mail pgillespie@berriencounty.org.
The proposed application is on file at the Berrien County Administration Center, Community Development Department, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085, and may be reviewed for a 30 day period from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday- Friday, February 8, 2025 through March 10, 2025.
Written comments regarding the application and/or a written request for a public hearing to review the application must be received by 5:00 p.m., March 11, 2025. If a hearing is requested, notice of the date, time and location will be provided at least 10 days in advance.
Submittals should be mailed to Berrien County Administration Center, Community Development Department, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085, to the attention of Dennis Schuh, Transportation Coordinator or via email to dschuh@berriencounty.org.

Niles Daily Star: Feb. 8, 2025
APPLICATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice Aloha Storage located at 3001 South 11th Street Niles MI 49120 intends to hold an auction of storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur at the facility on 2/25/2025 at 12:00PM. Unless otherwise stated in the below list of Unit #'s the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Unit #N221. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 1 and 8, 2025
L2L-56456

PUBLIC NOTICE

SECTION 001113 ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

1.01 PROJECT NAME:
A. New Wrestling Building Addition
1.02 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
A. This project consists of an addition to the Charles O. Zollar Building at Southwestern Michigan College with the intent of providing facilities for the sport of Wrestling. The program includes spaces for a new Wrestling Room, Offices, Locker Rooms, Restrooms for both Men and Women, and exercise facilities.
1.03 OWNER:
A. Southwestern Michigan College
58900 Cherry Grove Road
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047
1.04 ARCHITECT:
A. CARMI Design Group
210 E. Main Street, Suite 200
P.O. Box 487
Niles, MI 49120
Phone: 269-663-5073
1.05 BID DATE:
A. Bids will be received at the Cashier's Office of the Business Office on the first floor of the David C. Briegel Building on the Dowagiac Campus of Southwestern Michigan College until 7:45 AM (local time) on Wednesday February 19, 2025. Bids received after this time will not be considered and will be returned to the bidder unopened.
B. Bids will be publicly opened at a special meeting of the College's Board of Trustees at 8:00 AM on February 19, 2025, in Room 2112 of the David C. Briegel Building on the Dowagiac Campus and read aloud at this time.
C. Bids shall be properly and completely executed on the Bid Proposal Form included within the Project Manual and submitted in duplicate. Bids shall be clearly marked as "SMC New Wrestling Building Addition" on the front of the submitted envelope.
1.06 PRE-BID MEETING:
A. A Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on February 5, 2025, at 2:30 PM (local time) in the Theater located in Room 804 of the Charles O. Zollar Building on the Dowagiac campus. Bidders will have the opportunity to visit the Charles Zollar Building.
1.07 DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY AND USE:
A. Bid Documents may be viewed at the following Plan Rooms on or after January 29, 2025.
1. Builders Exchange of Kalamazoo www.builderexchange.com
2. Builders Exchange of Lansing www.bxlansing.com
3. Builders Exchange of Michigan www.grbx.com
4. Construction Association of Michigan www.BuildwithCAM.com
5. ConstructConnect www.constructconnect.com
6. Dodge Construction Network www.construction.com
7. MACIAF (South Bend, IN) www.constructionsite.org
1.08 BONDS:
A. A five percent (5%) Bid Bond shall accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond, Labor and Material Bonds, and certificates of Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance.
1.09 OTHER CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION:
A. Each bid shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees or the president of the college.
B. No bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of Thirty (30) calendar days after the date set for bid opening.
C. Public Act 517 of 2012 (effective December 31, 2012) enacted the "Iran Economic Sanctions Act", which prevents "Iran linked businesses" from submitting a bid on a request for proposals (RFP) with a public entity. This law requires that persons submitting bids certify that they are not an "Iran linked business," which is defined as either:
1. A person engaging in investment activities in the energy sector of Iran, including a person that provides oil or liquefied natural gas tankers or products used to construct or maintain pipelines used to transport oil or liquefied natural gas for the energy sector of Iran; or
2. A financial institution that extends credit to another person, if that person will use the credit to engage in investment activities in the energy sector of Iran.
D. Southwestern Michigan College reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or irregularities in bids, and to accept any bid that is Deemed most advantageous to the public interest.
E. The awarded contractor will be required to pay not less than the published Michigan prevailing wage rates and provide certified payroll reports for this project. Current wage determinations are provided in the Project Manual.

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 1 and 8, 2025
BIDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF NILES 2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The March Board of Review will meet at the City Hall:
333 N. 2nd Street - City of Niles, Michigan 49120
March 4th, 2025 (9:00am) = Organizational Meeting – No Appeals
March 11th, 2025 (1:00pm – 7:30pm) = Appeal Hearing***
March 12th. 2025 (1:00pm – 7:30pm) = Appeal Hearing***

All appeals will be heard by appointment only. Please **call 269-683-4700 x1010 or EMAIL** assessor@nilesmi.org to schedule an appointment. Residents may protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to 5:00pm March 10th, 2025. Walk-in appeals will be heard as time permits after all appointments have been heard.
American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 5 days' notice. Contact Tina Bergman – 269.683.4700 x3030
Edward VanderVries
Niles City Assessor
Tina Bergman
Niles City Clerk

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 8 15 and 22, 2025
MARCH REVIEW

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF NILES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE City Council of the City of Niles, Michigan, on January 27, 2025, adopted Ordinance No. 512, which amends, in part, Ordinance No. 492 of the City of Niles, Michigan Ordinances, pertaining to zoning regulations for recreational marihuana facilities, providing that growers shall only be permitted on parcels withing int IND (Industrial District) and within the permissible areas as illustrated on the City of Niles, Michigan Zoning Map. In an event where a micro-business transitions to retail and grow, Class A or retail and grow, Class B license, then growers are permitted in IND - Industrial or RC - Regional Commercial District. For micro-businesses in IND - Industrial District, establishments are permitted to transition to retail and grow Class A, B, or C.

ORDINANCE # 512
Effective Date:
February 16, 2025

Notice is further given that a true copy of the Ordinance is available to the public to be obtained or inspected during business hours at the office of the City Clerk, 333 North Second Street, Niles, Michigan. This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of MCL 117.3(k).

Tina Bergman,
City Clerk

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 8, 2025
ORD 512

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF NILES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE City Council of the City of Niles, Michigan, on January 27, 2025, adopted Ordinance No. 513, which amends, in part, Ordinance No. 491 of the City of Niles, Michigan Ordinances, pertaining to regulation of adult use marihuana providing that while growers are not initially permitted in RC - Regional Commercial District, if a micro-business transitions their license to a retail and grow Class A or retail and grow Class B and are located within the Regional Commercial District, the establishment shall be a permitted use and may remain within the Regional Commercial District. For micro-businesses in the IND - Industrial District, establishments are permitted to transition to retail and grow, Class A, B, or C.

Further, provisioning centers may only operate between 7:00 am and 10:00 pm. No admission is to be granted to anyone other than staff / employees after 10:00 pm. All transactions must cease, and all non-staff / employees must vacate premises by 10:30 pm.

ORDINANCE # 513
Effective Date: February 16, 2025

Notice is further given that a true copy of the Ordinance is available to the public to be obtained or inspected during business hours at the office of the City Clerk, 333 North Second Street, Niles, Michigan. This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of MCL 117.3(k).

Tina Bergman,
City Clerk

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 8, 2025
ORD. 513

Do you have available jobs?

Call 269-591-6105 to let others know about job opportunities at your business.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF NILES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE City Council of the City of Niles, Michigan, on January 27, 2025, adopted Ordinance No. 514, which amends, in part, Ordinance No. 488 of the City of Niles, Michigan Ordinances, pertaining to zoning regulations of medical marihuana facilities providing that the hours of operation for provisioning centers are between 7:00 am and 10:00 pm. No admission to be granted to anyone other than staff / employees after 10:00 pm. All transactions must cease, and all non-staff / employees must vacate the premises by 10:30 pm.

ORDINANCE # 514
Effective Date: February 16, 2025

Notice is further given that a true copy of the Ordinance is available to the public to be obtained or inspected during business hours at the office of the City Clerk, 333 North Second Street, Niles, Michigan. This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of MCL 117.3(k).

Tina Bergman,
City Clerk

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 8, 2025
ORD. 514

PUBLIC NOTICE

HOWARD CHARTER TOWNSHIP PARK COMMISSION NILES, MI REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL SPECIFICATIONS

Howard Township Park Commission invites qualified vendors to submit proposals for playground structures, including the purchase, installation, border, playground mulch filler, removal, and disposal of old equipment. ADA compliant.
Pre-bid meeting will be held at **10 am February 12, 2025**.
We will meet at the Howard Charter Township Hall 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, MI. This bid package will be reviewed and any questions you have will be addressed.
To be considered, two (2) copies of completed proposal must be received no later than **February 20, 2025 by 4 pm.**
Proposals can be mailed, emailed, or delivered in person. Proposals should be addressed to:
Howard Charter Township
Sherri Wozniak, Clerk
1345 Barron Lake Road
Niles, MI 49120
Submitters should mark the submittal envelope with:
Attn: Parks-Playground Structures Project
Email to: depclerk@howardtwp.org
Bid opening will be at **10 am February 21, 2025**, at the township hall.
It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded on **February 21, 2025.**
Submitted proposals become the property of Howard Charter Township and will not be returned.
Proposals received by Howard Charter Township after the specified time above, will not be considered.

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 8, 2025
PROPOSALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday February 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Unit #	Name
10	Charmin Kelly
32	Eric Johnson
67	Jerom Jankowiak
94	Joshua Thompson
105	Luis Garcia
114	Tellie Doan
115	Nate Bedford
116	Melissa Kaeding
145/467/468	Michael Merritt
164	Brady Hattenback
177	Larry Wegrecki
183	Cindy Fisher
184/66	Mary Anderson
191	Alan Smith
195	Daniel Beushauser
217	James Russell
222	Ruth Brown
228/367	Shawnette Booker
240/190	Teyshaun Wallace
278	Chelsie Carlyle
284	Kathleen Peterson
321	James Browning
331	Valerie Outlaw
342	Terrence Moss
346	DaMonica Williams
356	Chase Molica
368	Erin Weed
375	Jenna Shirrell
377	Rachel Purucker
386	Shannon Lego
389	Parnell Jenkins
399	Les Hart
412	Tyler Ballard
427/428	McCade Reese
451	Jean Fitch
452	Tyler Mahar
459	Jethrow Kyles
486	Leigh Anne Norris
488	Bryan Haughton
541	Nicole Hurt
613	Nichole Jones
628/499	Altavious Stone
638	Britney Stanczyk
661/665	Rodney Prescott
677/567	Julie Potate

Niles U-Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday February 22, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

35	Tyler Cameron
49	Miranda Wendzel
57	Nathan Haynes

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday February 22, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

97	Blake King
170A	Mellisa Visel
179A	Tyler Vanlaecke
194A	Wayne Sullivan II
312A/313A	Gregory Martin
315A	Laurie Hiatt
125	Kristina Hemminger
136	Jennifer Harrison
155	Christine George
188	Michael Fedore
238/466	James Diss
242	Wanda Burnett
250	Robert Clayton/ Jessica Vissik
251	Caley Alvord
259	William Pritchard
277	K.C. Hiatt
288	Donna Waldron
292	The Woodshed Crafts
301	Rebecca Nichols
319	Jeannie Barsodi
327	Robert Davis
355	Carson Bowlin
373	Rhonda Sue Outlaw
377	Christy Stevens
380	Leatha Lennox
420	Michelle Boyce

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 8, and 15, 2025
STORAGE AUCTION

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHAWNEE MINI-STORAGE AND M-139 STORAGE 6681 US HIGHWAY 31BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN 49103

This notice is to inform the following tenants that full payment in credit card, cash or money order is due immediately.

If full payment in credit card, cash or money order is not received By February 10, 2025 the contents of the units will be disposed by Shawnee Mini Storage.

1700 Smith Road Facility:
Kathi Metz
Cassie Jo Alden

M139 Location:
Pamela Kublick

Shawnee Road Location:
Ashley Ault
Monique Gordon

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 1 and 8, 2025
STORAGE DISPOSAL

Raise your hand if you want your business to make LESS money next year.

We didn't think you would. Do you need to successfully market on a tight budget? Leader Publications Classified Marketplace has customizable programs available to fit any budget.

DON'T WAIT!
Call TODAY
269-591-6105

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT Berrien COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-0023-DE-M
Court address 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085
Court telephone 269-983-7111

Estate of Lester H. Sebasty, deceased
Date of birth:* 03/02/1934
TO ALL CREDITORS:**
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lester H. Sebasty, died 12/10/2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Laura Sadowsky, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
01/30/2025

Laura Sadowsky
2205W 300N
Peru, IN 46970
765-473-1048

John R. Colip P25250
12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915

Niles Daily Star: Feb. 8, 2025
EST/SEBASTY, L.

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY

$1000 OFF*
OR
$1500 OFF when financing with remodelingloans.com** OR **0% Interest** For 18 Months**
OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/2025

CALL NOW!
(877) 368-0690

BATH CONCEPTS INC
Military & Senior Discounts Available

*Includes labor and product; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 3/31/2025. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify/Participating dealers only. See your dealer for details. ©2024 BCI.

DEALS ON WHEELS

$0 DOWN DELIVERS! ON THE SPOT APPROVAL

TOYOTA SIENNA LE
Leather, moonroof, looks, runs, and drives great
Only $9,900

PONTIAC SOLSTICE
Low miles, great shape…Nice car to drive to car shows
Only $13,900

2015 HONDA CIVIC LX CVT
Automatic with backup camera, cruise control and amazing gas mileage!
Only $13,900

2018 JEEP COMPASS 4 X 4
Super clean widda price that's lean
Only $14,777

2018 CHEVY COLORADO EX-CAB
Just in! Perfect delivery truck with a Tommy lift gate
Only $15,900

2020 CHEVY TRAX
Lease unit with only 39,000 miles
Only $17,900

2020 HYUNDAI IONIQ
Gets 60 MPG!!
Only $17,900

2022 CHEVY MALIBU LT
Just in!!
MOONROOF BABY!!
Only $18,900

2018 TOYOTA RAV 4 4 X 4
Just in!!
These sell fast…
Only $19,900

2018 RAM PRO MASTER CITY
Just in!! Save thousands on this 59,000 mile gas saver
Only $19,900

2019 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW HIGH COUNTRY 4 X 4
Jacked up Duramax with every toy!
Must See!!

2018 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD
Just in!! One owner, every option, low, low miles
Only $21,900

2019 KIA STINGER
OH BABY!!
Only $23,900

2021 TOYOTA RAV 4 AWD
Just in!!
Loaded with options, not price
Only $24,900

2021 VOLKSWAGEN ID4
GO ELECTRIC
Only $25,900

2020 CHEVY TAHOE 4 X 4
Just in!!
Save thousands
Only $27,900

2003 CHEVY SSR
BIG BLOCK, SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles
Only $29,900

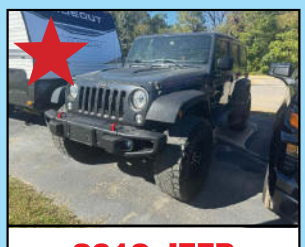
2021 CHEVY COLORADO 4 X 4
Just in!!
Off lease, one owner
Only $29,900

2020 LINCOLN AVIATOR AWD
Every option!! Mint condition
Only $29,900

2020 JEEP WRANGLER 4 X 4
Just in!!
Off lease, only 33,000 miles
Only $29,900

2024 GMC TERRAIN SLT AWD
Just in!!
Loaded moonroof with teen miles..
MSRP over $41,000
Only $31,900

2021 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE L LIMITED
Just in!! Off lease, 1 owner, like new EVERY OPTION!
Only $33,900

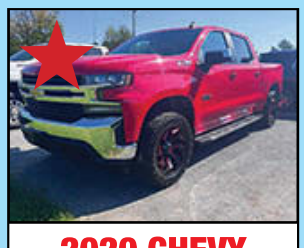


2018 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON
Lifted and gifted with every option and 37" INCH TIRES!
Only $33,900

2017 FORD F-150 CREW PLATINUM 4 X 4
Just in!! Mint condition with every option & super low miles
Only $34,900

2016 FORD F-250 XLT 4 X 4
Crew cab, long box
Diesel, Low miles
Only $34,900

2023 CHEVY COLORADO CREW 4 X 4
NEW BODY with extra low miles…SAVE!
Only $39,900



2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71
Oh So Purdy!
Only $41,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4
Diesel,
Super low miles
Save thousands!
Only $45,900

2020 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED MAXI 4 X 4
Every option, super condition.
Get ready for winter now
Only $49,900

2023 RAM CREW DUALLY 4 X 4
Big Horn, rollin' coal
Only $57,900

SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR

269-783-3325 • M-51 DOWAGIAC